

Annual Report

November 2013 - November 2014



Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance

**Cohesive Community
Connected by Woodlands & Waterways
Committed to Neighborhood Stewardship**

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Our Mission

“The mission of the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance is to coordinate our active community of residents and regional partners to preserve, protect, and restore Finn Hill’s extraordinary natural environment, and to promote the welfare of the Finn Hill community by engaging in civic issues.”

Officers and Directors

Current Directors 2014

Scott Morris, President

Connie Winter, Treasurer

Pierre Geurts, Secretary

Jon Pascal, Policy

Jeanette Leach, Stewardship

Kathy Schuler, Outreach - Communications

Kurt Brunnenkant, Outreach - Community

Matthew Pruitt, at-large

Ted McCagg, at-large

Francesca Lyman, at-large

Bill Blanchard, at-large

Highlights of 2014

Policy and Planning

Participated:

- We joined the Juanita Drive Corridor Study Advisory Committee and helped advise on most vital safety improvements.
- We worked with the fire station siting study advisory committee to review potential locations for a new fire station for the eastern side of Finn Hill.
- We participated in the City's study of 100th Avenue improvements, providing comments on the types of projects desired and the overall goals of the study.
- We played a part in the City's Neighborhood Safety Program pilot project and submitted project requests for 4 safety projects in the neighborhood. Three of the 4 project proposals were accepted and ultimately funded, including crosswalks on 90th Avenue NE, walkway improvements along 84th Avenue NE, and a new crossing of Juanita Drive at Big Finn Hill Park.

Worked with the City:

- We were involved in the improving and updating of the Holmes Point Overlay, testifying in city meetings and recommending zoning improvements (protecting significant trees and natural vegetation areas.)
- We worked to limit zoning changes in the absence of a Neighborhood Plan along Juanita Drive in the Holmes Point Commercial Area.
- We opened negotiations to acquire woodlands next to Juanita Heights Park, in order to expand parks and open trails to Juanita Beach and preserve eastern slope of Finn Hill; purchased property appraisal and began funding discussions with City and County officials.

- We engaged on a variety of other parks, planning, transportation, and land use issues.

Recommended:

- FHNA advised the City on preparation of new Storm Water Management Plan.
- The FHNA Board provided comments on the City Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, stressing the value of land acquisition and creating pedestrian trails within Finn Hill with connections to Juanita Beach.
- We presented a program for developing a Finn Hill Neighborhood Plan during City's Comprehensive Plan update; identified an urban design consultant to work with Finn Hill residents and City and pledged to underwrite a portion of consultant's fee with grant received from King County.

Parks & Stewardship

Worked with the City and County:

- FHNA Board members joined a citizens' group advising King County Parks on plans for trail maintenance and development in Big Finn Hill Parks.
- We devised alternative projects for improving O.O. Denny Park to be used with funding from departing Finn Hill Parks and Recreation District monies.
- We wrote, researched and designed park signage for O.O. Denny Park to be used with funding from departing Finn Hill Parks and Recreation District monies.

Organized:

- We led work parties for trail maintenance, removing invasive and planting native plants in Big Finn Hill Parks.

- We planned and led “Take a walk in the park” events to introduce the neighbors to the extensive trails of Big Finn Hill Park and St. Edward State Park.
- We hosted two work parties in the Juanita Woodlands (one consisting of Expedia volunteers), continuing our multi-year program of replacing diseased trees with new seedlings that will enhance the health and diversity of this 40 acre park and establish a deer glade.
- We led work parties and continued vigorous restoration work in the expanded Juanita Heights Park. Working with neighbors, Earthcorps, Applied Ecology, and Green Kirkland, we organized 11 work parties, clearing over 10,000 square feet of ivy and blackberries, & planting 530 native trees, shrubs and ground cover.

Community and Communications

Events:

- FHNA continued the annual community-wide Garage Sale event, mapping 19 family sales on the website.
- FHNA organized Finn Hill’s presence in the Kirkland Fourth of July parade, with three vintage cars, FHNA banners, and more than a dozen residents participating in costume.
- FHNA staffed an FHNA table at Friday Juanita Farmers market events.
- We supported Christmas Ship visit to O.O. Denny with luminaries and hundreds of cups of hot chocolate and coffee.
- FHNA put on another terrific DennyFest celebration in September, with great volunteer coordination, weather, sponsors, politicians, artists, child play, dogs, pies, chili, and spectacular live music.
- Three months after the Oso tragedy, FHNA held a first-ever special event exploring the threats of landslides and mudslides

in our corner of Kirkland and Kenmore. The event featured a panel of five experts including a UW geology professor, a geotech engineer, 2 city officials and a citizen activist and was covered in local press and in a KOMO news radio spot. Video-taped the event and producing a short webcast.

Community & Communications Outreach:

- FHNA continued to maintain and expand content on the FHNA website (www.FinnHillAlliance.org) and Facebook page (Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance) covering civic and environmental issues affecting Finn Hill residents. Engaged community interest and conversation via Facebook, email blasts, news releases, blogs, and interactive website.
- We expanded the FHNA database to include 764 email addresses.
- We produced O.O. Denny Park Trail Map. Renamed Denny Park kiosk in honor of DCNA/FHNA co-founder and board member Ellen Haas.
- FHNA raised \$1,801.95 for FHNA via the Seattle Foundation's GiveBig event.
- We continued the Finn Hill History Project whose goal is to collect information and interview first and second generation Finn Hill settlers.
- FHNA supported the startup of the Finn Hill Artist Alliance. Finn Hill artists are collaborating on a future artist's studio tour, art show and sale, finding a gallery venue, creating artist cards and more.

Income and Expense Report

Nov. 2013 - Nov. 2014

Income

Grant - King County \$4,999
Individual Donations \$2,724.36
Matching Donations \$4,195.32
Interest \$18.83
Program Income
 DennyFest \$558.17
 Christmas Ship \$89

Total Income: \$12,584.68

Expense

Administrative \$7,892.80
Program Expense
 Christmas Ship \$138.70
 DennyFest \$6,124.32
 Denny Creek Watershed \$239
 Juanita Woodlands \$2,466.07
 Meetings \$856.57

Total Expenses: \$17,717.46

Funds Balance

Operating Account \$6,118.32
Reserve Savings \$5,008.20
Juanita Woodlands \$42,826.25
PayPal \$526.86

Total Funds \$54,479.63

Notes:

- \$1801.95 of donations were through The Seattle Foundation's GiveBig event in May.
- We are expecting \$4500 in grants from the City of Kirkland from their Neighborhood Fund to support the expenses of DennyFest.

Many thanks to all who support our work!