



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Date: August 4, 2020– 6:00– 7:30pm**

**Location: Via Zoom**

**Project: Girdwood Trails Plan Committee**

Girdwood Trails Plan Subcommittee Voting members are defined as Girdwood residents or property owners age 18 years or older who have been appointed by the Girdwood Trails Committee to be a member of this subcommittee.

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors, its committees, and subcommittees are subject to the Alaska Open Meetings Act as found in Alaska Statute 44.62.310 and Anchorage Municipal Code 1.25 - Public Meetings.

## **Roll Call Attendance**

Holly Spoth-Torres (GTP Contractor), Taylor Smith (Huddle AK)

Committee Members: Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian, Ron Tenny, Carolyn Brodin, Paul Crews, Nick Georgelos, Eileen Halverson, Kyle Kelley (MOA)

Not present as the meeting is called to order: Brian Burnett, Craig Schubert, Deb Essex, Jonathan Lee

Members of the Public: Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Brianna Sullivan, Shelley Rowton (HLB), Barbara Crews, Christina Hendrickson

Joined after the meeting was called to order: Mike Edgington, Kalie Harrison

## **Call to Order**

R.Tenny called the meeting to order at 6:06pm

## **Open Meetings act via Teleconference**

Holly Spoth-Torres (HST) confirmed that participants are connected and able to communicate. She reviewed the process: use the chat bar if needed, the meeting will be recorded, chats and all communications

Voting via roll call to keep track of aye and nay

Raise your hand using the button or physically if you need to raise a point

State your name before you speak

## **Approval of March Meeting Minutes**

R. Tenny made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 3<sup>rd</sup>

B. Raymond-Yakoubian seconded

The motion passed

## **Approval of August Agenda**

HST suggested an amendment to the publicly noticed agenda to remove Existing Condition Overview

B. Sullivan made a motion to approve the amended agenda

C. Brodin seconded

## The motion passed

The group wants to clarify how subcommittee members are determined and if community members can vote. Through discussion the subcommittee will continue to function as determined during the March meeting. As a subcommittee of GBOS, Robert's Rules of Order and process will be followed. Subcommittee members can vote and community members can attend and participate. If subcommittee members leave, they can be replaced by other individuals after a nomination.

Kyle noted there was a chat question requesting to have all member names read. Selected subcommittee members are listed at the top of the previous meeting minutes and will be listed on all future agendas.

## Project Schedule

HST reviewed the updated schedule and the proposed changes due to COVID and not being able to meet in-person for the past few months.

E. Halverson asked if we are permitted to have the August meeting outside with social distancing? HST and K. Kelley shared that the current recommendation is virtual meetings only. We may be able to explore the option of an in-person meeting in September.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian asked for some additional discussion around visual aspects as the trails plan will get into mapping. HST responded that virtual meetings using the annotation capabilities within Zoom have yielded good results. With no end of COVID in sight at this time, it seems the planning process should move forward and see what can be achieved virtually. HST solicits feedback from the group.

C. Hendrickson shared that the October timeframe she proposed in the original scope to put the trails plan in place was very intentional with the travel schedule of many community members. Virtual meetings seem to be a good option with some edits to the communication plan to ensure documents get into the community. Traditional Public Meetings provide a lot of interaction (like Imagine Girdwood) and she would like that level of engagement maintained through virtual meetings. Cristina suggested providing maps and other documents well in advance of an engaging open forum.

C. Brodin is concerned about getting the community input desired if the outreach is conducted virtually. S. Rowton would not like to see the plan delayed due to funding opportunities being contingent on the final plan's adoption.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian shared her concern regarding people not feeling comfortable participating online or virtually. HST replied that there could be many different virtual opportunities outside of Zoom for different levels of comfort.

R. Tenny feels the August Report Workshop may be rushed as there doesn't seem to be much on paper to share yet. HST clarified that the August meeting is intended review the existing conditions and executive summary of stakeholder interviews.

The group expressed some concern about how quickly they can reach a shared vision statement and how long it may take to find consensus.

HST shared that during the stakeholder interviews many commonalities arose that indicate consensus is not out of reach.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian raised the topic of a user survey and suggests shifting the focus from statistically valid data to gathering as much community input as possible through existing meetings.

*Deb Essex joined the meeting.*

K. Kelley supports using existing meetings to gather information. He wants the community to be clear on how the data is collected and how it comes to the subcommittee.

E Halverson expressed that there's a certain segment of the population that attends community meetings. She feels certain voices may be missed if all engagement is virtual but does not want to delay the schedule.

*Mike Edgington has joined the meeting.*

P. Crews would like to share a hard copy map of the Girdwood trails and allow community members to comment that way.

HST responds that maps will be included in the existing condition assessment. The August workshop is intended to review the stakeholder interview summaries and the existing condition analysis. The August workshop is not a public workshop, it's for the subcommittee.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian suggests considering another workshop for mapping alone.

HST clarified the schedule and intention of an internal August workshop followed by two public workshops in October and January. There will be many maps at the January workshop alongside the draft plan.

S. Rowton expressed an interest in an existing conditions map with undedicated but widely used trails. HST asks what the groups' comfort level is moving forward keeping access, equity, and participation in mind.

M. Edgington raised the issue of keeping this process separate from the area plan and other planning projects that are going to be happening.

N. Georgelos would like to move forward with virtual meetings and see how it works. The group can evaluate after trying.

C. Brodin agrees.

K. Kelley shared a reminder that Huddle is on contract for a certain term. If virtual workshops aren't working, then there may need to be additional funding and a term extension. He encourages the group to give the virtual workshop a try.

[N. Georgelos made a motion to move forward with the schedule as presented with a report workshop in August.](#)

[D. Essex seconded](#)

[E. Halverson nayed](#)

The group moved into discussion period:

B. Raymond-Yakoubian wants to ensure access, equity, participation to be addressed throughout the process and maintain the ability to re-evaluate if things are not working.

N. Georgelos made another motion to move forward with the schedule as presented

D. Essex seconded

B. Raymon-Yakoubian makes an amendment to N. Georgelos motion, including best efforts around equity and participation, routinely evaluating whether or not we need to change our methodology.

E. Halverson seconded

Discussion:

C. Hendrickson is concerned about finding additional funding if the process needs to be extended

The amended motion passed

*Kalie Harrison joined the meeting*

Huddle to reach out with a scheduling poll to set the August workshop. It will be sent out this week.

### **Stakeholder Interview Executive Summary**

HST provides an overview of the results and the process of conducting the interviews. Huddle AK conducted 10 60-minute interviews. After reviewing the key themes, HST opened it up for discussion.

M. Edgington asked if the priority projects were ranked.

HST shared that the hand tram came up consistently, but the priorities were not ranked.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian would like to read the full interview summaries for the full context of the conversations and encourages all subcommittee members to read the full interviews.

HST responded that all information is available for those who want to read it. The project will continue to narrow focus as it moves forward.

E. Halverson raised a question about general trail users and community input as the 3 general trail users who participated in interviews are part of the subcommittee. She would like to revisit the idea of an intercept survey.

HST shared that the Girdwood Trails Committee will need to pursue an intercept survey if that's something they desire as it is outside the scope of this project.

K. Kelley gave a 4-minute warning

HST opened Public Comment

J. Raymond-Yakoubian would like natural spaces to continue being a recognized throughout the discussions and asks the group to consider calling it the trails and natural spaces plan or trails and natural spaces systems plan.

D. Essex moved to adjourn

C. Brodin seconded

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm