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**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**P. O. Box 1154, Girdwood, AK 99587**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, December 1, 2015**

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order**

Agenda Approved

November 3, 2015 Minutes Approved with correction

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

**Old Business**

* Review Olympic Mountain Loop shuttle shelter trail maps

Michelle Ritter had to cancel attendance at this meeting and will plan to present the shuttle shelter trail map at the January meeting.

* Girdwood Lions Club Park. Letter of support/non-objection to park dedication

Issue is official dedication of the Girdwood Lions Club Park. Lions Club is seeking a formal letter of support. Kyle Kelley suggests that the letter also include mention of the Iditarod Trail easement through the property.

Alison Rein asks about parking for the park. Kyle explains that there is space across from the Fire station and on-street parking. There is also the possibility that part of the 4th parcel could be used for parking.

Kyle Kidder asks about the access to the under-bridge crossing of Alyeska Highway.

Margaret & Kyle to draft letter for Carolyn Brodin to sign.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to write a letter of support of formal dedication of the Girdwood Lions Club Park.

Motion by Alison Rein

Motion passes

* Alyeska Ski Club Adopt-A-Trail

 Alyeska Ski Club presented at the November GTC meeting. This is early in the adopt-a-trail program, and the AK Trails Group is still working on figuring out the mechanics of the program.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at the at the Girdwood Community Room, 7:00 pm**

Girdwood Trails Committee Agendas and minutes are available on line: http://www.muni.org/gbos

Lia Slemmons discussed that the program is coming in to place as land managers don’t have the resources to do the trail work for all the trails that they are in charge of. Adopt-a-trail is strategy to ensure that the trail maintenance, standards, safety and procedures performed by volunteers matches what land managers need. Adopt a trail is creating a plan

Kyle Kelley asks for clarification of roles. Lia Slemmons answers that Alaska Trails plans to be the long term facilitator to make sure that the relationship is sustainable. Kyle states that Girdwood parks and rec is very interested in having Adopt a Trail to organize volunteers and facilitate work efforts based on trail work identified in scope by Trails Committee.

Kyle Kidder states that Alaska Trails is an expert in trail work, provides trail building/maintenance classes and provide a great resource. This is a great role for them to play in the program as it provides training for volunteers.

General structure at this time:

Volunteers make themselves known to Adopt-A-Trail program through application

Adopt-a-trail identifies work to be done with Parks & Rec/Trails Committee

Adopt-a-trail coordinates training for volunteers, safety instruction, sign waiver

Adopt-a-trail coordinates volunteers on site, provides them with equipment and tools

Kyle states that Parks and rec is very interested in pursuing help from Alyeska Ski Club on Beaver Pond Trail.

* Interagency Land Management Agreements (Kyle Kidder/Kyle Kelley)

No new progress at this time. Kyle and Kyle to get together to figure out ILMA for California Creek Trailhead and Beaver Pond Trail/Abe’s Trail

*Trails Issues:*

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access

No new information on this item. This seems to have become lower priority with current state fiscal situation.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

 Final bid documents should go out around February. Working on Pedestrian crossing with flashing lights; Municipality wants state to maintain liability, even if city purchases crossing lights.

* USFS Iditarod Lower valley improvements (Alison Rein)

Phase 1 from Railroad to Ruane Rd.

Phase 2 from Ruane to Community center.

Alison flagged trail, attempting to stay at least 35 ft from creek. Trying for higher and drier routing, she encourages people to go look at the flagging and provide input.

Some relocations are recommended:

Softening curve at ??

Moving trail from California Creek embankment, though it has been mentioned that many people access the creek for fishing. May need to work on barriers/brush to keep people off the bank.

Move toward creek at industrial park alignment. This takes trail out of the easement, but it is toward the creek, so it is not in the way of industrial park.

New trail would bypass new SCA bridge.

6’ trail tread (same as trail of blue ice on unpaved sections) instead of 8’.

3:1 side slope recommended. This is most sustainable trail.

Getting gravel to the wettest area at the south end of the trail is likely the most problematic element for fill. Possible to dump from Railroad and then move over to trail, without dealing with the steep hill from Alyeska Highway.

Could replace bridge with another bridge or fill and culverts.

Kyle Kidder asked about the Industrial Park and flood protection for lots closer to the river. Kyle Kelley states that it’s a multi-phase project and those lots are later in the development plan for the area; this may be something future lot owners will pursue.

Kyle Kelley states that 6’ path seems reasonable. This is likely to be a popular route and 6’ should handle overgrowth and help with line of sight on the trail. Kyle Kidder also supports this wider trail, and adds that this will work better for winter use.

Kyle Kelley asks about when work could begin on the trail as GTC has $17,000 grant to work with. Best to get some work done this spring/summer to utilize grant funding, perhaps at wet section in phase 1.

Alison mentions that higher on trail (school to crow creek road), there is no-bike recommendation in 1997 plan, but this should be updated.

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan

No meeting held in December. Completed trail descriptions in November. Will pick up again in January.

Gary Galbraith asks about what “multi-use” means. Brian Burnett was understood by Gary to have said that goal for all trails is multi-use. This seems to be mis-understanding. Group agrees that all trails are non-motorized, no horse. Each trail has their own unique users, as was identified in Trail Plan. These are generally the same as their current uses.

Gary asks if any of the trails are likely to become motorized, citing that MOA has motorized trails at Kincaid. Dwaine Schuldt states that this was handled in the 80’s in Girdwood. Alyeska Motor musher weekend is the compromise on this and it is felt that 20 mile and Turnagain are close enough for those user groups.

Kyle Kidder suggests that this could be addressed in the trail plan, identifying close areas where motorized vehicles can be used (Bird Creek, etc).

He also suggests that trails not built yet should also be part of the Trail Plan document.

Kyle Kelley states that this document is to be a working document and can be updated. It can be used as a history and resource identifying future goals

Iditarod Trial Meeting mentioned by Kyle Kidder. Meeting is taking place this week. Kyle attends meetings monthly. There is a vacancy on Board of Directors, which perhaps Brian Burnett may be interested in taking.

* Hand Tram Kiosk Committee (Alison Rein): Review draft content for kiosks

Schubert says that he has materials and is about ready to work on the kiosk structure.

* Moose Meadows/Alyeska Playing Field Survey

Kyle Kelley will check back with surveyor since snow is not so deep.

* Winter Grooming

A little snow and the trails will be in great shape. Nice frozen base now.

* Discussion of summer trail work for 2016

Kyle Kelley states that there are 2 projects remaining from 2015:

Bridge over Tiny Creek at School

Beaver Pond State Park side

We have agreement under way with Alaska State Parks to work on this.

GTC has $24,000 budgeted for trail work from GBOS.

Need input from Trails committee regarding SCA work –

Does trails want to focus on volunteers for brushing in 2016 and use SCA for more tool/tread work?

Are there other projects that GTC wants to focus on?

Marcus Ackerman is a teacher at Girdwood School. He supports the idea of fixing Tiny Creek Bridge and then students can work on other aspects of trail.

Will Brennan says he recommends using paid trail crew he’d use them for 3 weeks on the same trail. They’re interns, and if they can focus on one project they achieve better results.

Kyle Kelley agrees that longer work on similar project is better for SCA. Perhaps do Tiny Creek Bridge and then focus rest of their time on Beaver Pond.

Trails Committee Could go out to Beaver Pond Trail in May to identify specific work on the trail. Identify the section of trail at that time and then Kyle can give specific direction to SCA in the end of May.

* Discussion of change in GTC monthly meeting date

No new information. Brian and Kate are not attending tonight.

* Other Trails Issues

Girdwood K-8 school:

Marcus Ackerman introduces that school is working on creating a site committee for school grounds. Meeting on January 13 at 5PM. Seeking input to present to school board and MOA regarding Athabascan Trail and Iditarod Trail.

Interested in having Alaska Trails come and do some training for kids.

Kyle Kelley mentions that GTC will need the school’s support to work on the Tiny Creek trail bridge also.

Abe’s Trail work:

Alison Rein says that a co-worker has mentioned that there is a section of trail not connected to the rest of the trail that goes up farther. Not sure who has done this work

5K Nordic Trail and junction with Winner Creek Trail:

Gary Galbraith seeks connector trail to get winter Winner Creek hikers. People end up walking on the 5K trail to access the other multi-use trails at the upper meadows.

Kyle Kelley says this is a good item to bring up to the Nordic Ski Club.

Wagon Trail discussion:

Carolyn Brodin mentions the bike park in the gravel pit area. Blue flagging up Orca and big cut through the alders

*Budget and Grants*

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report |
| December 1, 2015 |  |  |
| Girdwood Inc. Account |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $13,154.12 |
| Rreserve for Trail Signs |  |  (500.00) |
| RAC Grant Receivable |  |  1,782.60  |
| Reserve for Forest Fair Fund |  |  (80.03) |
| Balance Unreserved Funds |  | $14,356.69 |
| RAC Grant  |  |  |
| RAC Grant Funds |  | $7,345.42 |
| Amount to be Submitted |  |  (1,782.60) |
| Committed for Kiosks |  |  (3,520.00) |
| Uncommitted RAC Balance |  | $2,042.82 |
| Note: No Change from November Report |

* Anchorage Park Foundation Grant update

$17,000 in grant funds

Submitted report as requested.

*Updates*

* Turnagain Times Article

Article for winter issue submitted

Spring article regarding trail work involvement, AK Trails, Adopt-A-Trail, etc.

Perhaps grooming article once snow flies.

* December LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian Burnett to attend. Joint LUC/GBOS at 5:30PM on 12/14, GBOS at 7PM.

**New Business**

* Trails Committee Election of Officers

January meeting will hold election.

**Other Business**

* Public Safety Task Force Update

Town Hall meeting on Nov 21.

Sam and Tommy laid out the plans: 3 police plans and 1 no vote option.

APD expansion to Girdwood is most expensive option and requires positive vote of both

ANC and Girdwood. Least popular option at straw poll.

AST grant is 2nd most expensive option. Essentially maintain service as is, creating service area from McHugh to Portage. This was well supported in the straw poll.

Whittier Police 3 year contract is least expensive @ $118/$100,000 in assessed home value and only involves Girdwood Service Area. This option was most strongly supported in straw poll.

No Option description of what happens without paid policing service.

At Dec 14 meeting, GBOS will decide which option to put forward on the April ballot and will review the powerpoint public safety information.

Kyle Kidder asked about VPSO; Kyle Kelley explains that this requires substantial support by AST. Kyle Kidder also inquires about revenue generated from citations. Kyle explains that the state takes a portion, Whittier gets remained and would split part of the revenue with Girdwood. Mechanics of this will be worked out.

Lynne Doran states that some Whitter police officers live in Girdwood, and that investment in the community was well received at the Town Hall meeting.

Diana Livingston states that Whittier option leaves some local control over policing, also a benefit that was well received at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9PM.