**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

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

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, February 3, 2015**

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order**

January Agenda approved with 2 additions:

Gary Galbraith Presentation on trapping proposal

Kyle Kelley added 2015 Trail Maintenance discussion

January 6, 2015 Minutes approved

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

Gary Galbraith has lived in Girdwood for 3 years, moved from Cooper Landing, where trapping issues are longstanding. Recently his neighbor’s dog in Girdwood was caught in a trap along one of the trails here.

Cooper Landing Community Council is working on a proposal to present to Fish and Game, and has initiated an educational survey on trapping. Concept of proposal is to create setbacks from trails, rather than closing areas to trapping.

Gary requested that GTC review the proposal and consider sending a letter of support for it to Fish and Game. Cooper Landing proposal is expected to be heard by Fish and Game on March 15. Comments are due by February 27. Individuals are also encouraged to comment, instructions on doing so are on page 3 of the proposal.

Girdwood Trails Committee agreed to review the proposal and consider writing letter of support. This requires special meeting in order to accomplish during comment period. Girdwood Trails Committee tentatively set date of MON Feb 23 at 7PM to hold special meeting on this topic.

Copy of the proposal and survey are to be emailed to Girdwood Trails Committee email list.

**Old Business**

* Election of GTC Officers:

Alison Rein prefers to vacate her seat as secretary. Group suggests that adding another seat as Treasurer will help with maintaining quorum at meetings. This is to be discussed at March regular meeting.

Kate Sandberg is nominated as Secretary.

Brian Burnett is nominated as Vice Chair.

Carolyn Brodin is nominated as Chair

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 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



Motion to have Kate Sandberg serve as Secretary, Brian Burnett as Vice Chair and Carolyn Brodin as Chair of the Girdwood Trails Committee.

Motion passes 9-0

* Interagency Land Management Agreements . Continuing to work on formalizing

agreements regarding California Creek Trailhead (Chugach State Park land on Crow Creek Rd) and the Beaver Pond Trail/Abe’s Trail

* Review and approval of Girdwood Trails Committee Logo

Group reviewed the new logo design, changes they requested have been made.

Motion to accept the Girdwood Trails Logo.

Motion Passes 9-0

*Trails Issues:*

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access

Kyle Kelley spoke with Vicki Swain at AKDOT; she stated that DOT objective is to be compliant with FAA requirements on airport land holdings. If funding is found, this could include fencing in airport land.

Andy Morrison adds that for the kennel permit, he has emailed Lisa Murkowski, Mike Hawker and Jennifer Johnston to make them aware of the DOT action. He is seeking information on who is making the decisions and why there is a change in their position on having the kennel on airport land.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor.

No new information. Slated for

construction in 2016, along with paving project on Alyeska Highway.

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan

Working on trail descriptions.

* Hand Tram Kiosk Committee (Alison and Kate)

Getting started on project. There is $7345.42 left in the grant to fund the 2 kiosks. $80.03 remains in budget from grand opening.

* Winter Grooming

5 K has been groomed and is skiable. Early season conditions exist.

* Dog Sledding

Kyle has permit ready to process for Turning Heads Kennel, but is holding off until there is snow as the permit has non-refundable fee of $50. No operating plan provided by Nic Petit yet, likely working elsewhere to prepare for racing season.

Andy Morrison may also apply for permit, but kennel situation is not clear yet.

* Work on California Creek Trail (Lynne’ Doran)

Trails Committee received photos from Lynne that show work on California Creek Trail. General consensus is that the work was done by mountain bikers. Kyle Kelley suggests that the people who do this work would benefit by having the community behind them on the project. Complaints to HLB about unwanted work on the trails will likely result in their work being torn out by HLB.

* Conibear trap on Beaver Pond Trail

Topic was discussed as part of Gary Galbraith’s presentation on Cooper Landing trapping proposal.

* Trail Maintenance Work 2015

Kyle is in touch with Student Conservation Association (SCA) for trail work in summer 2015. 3 weeks work (15 days) with 5 person crew, plus 2 crew leaders is $23,000. Also looking for grants with Anchorage Park Foundation and American Hiking Society to add time to trail work. Trails Committee agrees to discuss specific trail maintenance plan at March 3 Meeting. Interest in maintaining brushing, but want to focus on trail tread work.

* Other Trails Issues

Motorized use on Alta Road (Electric snowmachines).

Since this use involves children, troopers could respond.

Other issues involve Dune Buggy by airport and other motorized use on trails at mouth of valley.

Access to Tiny Creek Trail at school is blocked with new transformer location. Molly Hickox had expressed interest in having kids trial work project after construction is complete to re-route the trail and regain access.

Gary Galbraith requested info on additional trail by Girdwood Nordic Ski Association. Current plan is for trail approx 20’ wide, wide enough for snow cat to groom, multi-use trail, less difficult terrain, limited impact from existing trails.

*Budget and Grants*

* Financial Report –Numbers are the same as last month

$15,086.72 (less $500 when trail signs are completed.)

RAC Grant has $7345.42 remaining

Tram Grand Opening has $80.03

*Updates*

* Turnagain Times Article

Kate Sandberg to work on article about trapping survey

* February LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian Burnett confirms he’s attending both.

**New Business**

* KMTA Grant for work on Iditarod Trail (Lynne’ Doran)

KMTA grant has no grant cycle, can apply at any time. Most grants seem to be for signage, education on the Transportation corridor. Perhaps some other projects also can be funded.

Kyle Kelley mentions that Trails should begin work with USFS on future steps for Lower Iditarod Trail, now that this portion has been dedicated.

* Anchorage Park Foundation Grant

Grant paperwork due March 20. Info sessions in February. Trails Committee may want to apply for some trail work this summer to add time to SCA Contract.

**Other Business**

Due to lack of snow, NCAA ski race scheduled in Girdwood for Feb 22 has been cancelled

Girdwood School will host x-c running event in September.