**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

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

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, January 6, 2015**

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Attending are:** Dwaine Schuldt, Alison Rein, Jim Braham, Sarah Stokey, Travis Beals, Ken Wilkinson, Norm Starkey, Chuck Dorius, Carolyn Brodin, Nicolas Petit, Michelle Tenny, Andy Morrison, Gary Galbraith

MOA staff attending are: Kyle Kelley, Margaret Tyler

**Call to Order 7PM**

Agenda Approved

December 2, 2014 Minutes Approved

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

* Nic Petit, Girdwood Dog Musher

Girdwood musher, looking for long term option in Girdwood for kennel for summer and winter operations that is adequate for operations, located well: flat, treed, away from neighbors.

Seeking permit to mush in Girdwood this winter, will start permit process.

Discussion about Chugach Express Kennel status. Andy Morrison says that he has inherited the kennel lease that belonged to Dario Martinez. It’s Andy’s understanding that it is business as usual potential at the kennel and has not found obstacle with that from the State DOT/Airports. He states that he expects renewal of the lease when this one expires in 2016. Andy says that he plans to work with dog mushers to offer tours in Girdwood.

Kyle Kelley states that multiple permit holders for Moose Meadow use is fine, has been the case in the past with the Seaveys and Chugach Express. Main concern is staging of dogs as there is not much space in Moose Meadow parking area. Encouraging that they may all be able to stage from Chugach Express leasehold.

Group did some brainstorming on other locations for permanent solution to possible end of lease. Discussion included CEA cut land from Karolius to dump. Permitting, etc would be required and some dirt work to make land useable.

**Old Business**

* Interagency Land Management Agreements

Kyle Kidder not able to attend, however he sent info:

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 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

Chugach State Park ILMA for California Creek Trail head is proposed to be dissolved in the management plan. Recommend that GTC/GBOS & MOA apply for the easement.

If GTC want to have contractors work on the DPOR portion of Beaver Pond Trail near bird/gird bike path, a simple Land Use Permit can be issued through Matt Wedeking.

If we need a management agreement to spend money on the portion of trail not on HLB land, the MOA and DPOR has multiple management agreements around the Anchorage bowl. Possible that MOA and DPOR could amend or add language to include Beaver Pond Trail , which could save the writing of a “new” management agreement.

* Review Girdwood Trails Committee Logo

Suggested changes of shape, font and minor adjustment to image to be related to graphic designer.

*Trails Issues:*

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access

Kyle Kelley spoke with Vicky Swann with DOT&PF/Airports.

New/replaced signage for no-parking at turnaround at the end of the airport road.

Development planned for 12 new hangars just past the current gate, north of the current last hangar. In permitting phase currently.

FAA pressure to get airport leaseholders into compliance with FAA regulations.

Past and future funding from FAA is tied to compliance.

Concern from GTC is access to trails from airport. Possible to have trail created off of airport road on ridge just above?

Vicky Swann will come to GTC, LUC, GBOS when more is determined.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

2016 for reconstruction project, along with Alyeska Highway work.

Crews are surveying the road currently.

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan

Working on Trails descriptions.

* Winter Grooming

Nordic 5K Trail has been groomed 5 or 6 times this year. Not much snow to work with.

New drag and compactor waiting for use in the garage.

* Dog Sledding.

Turning Heads Kennel provided operations plan for permitting process. Encouraged at possibility of using Chugach Express location to base from. Plan to attend trails meetings during operating season.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to support the application of Turning Heads Kennel, based on the Operations Plan provided, for a permit to operate dog sled tours in Moose Meadows for the 2015 season.

Motion Carries 5-0

* Other Trails Issues

Girdwood Nordic Trails

Jim Braham and Chuck Dorius discuss that Girdwood Nordic is working with Bill Spencer with HDR to design another trail. Original plan was for 2-5K loops, so this is a continuation of the original intent. New trail is slated to be multi-use, easier terrain, more narrow, multi-directional and 4 season. Once ideas have been drafted by Bill Spencer, they’ll know more about the options.

Motorized use on trails

Ken Wilkenson says that he has noticed motorized use on lower Iditarod trails. No real enforcement possible. GTC discusses replacing signs that indicate that motorized traffic is not allowed.

*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

Sarah Stokey is going to write about dog sledding operation.

Alison Rein to work on trail etiquette article, but no need to place until it snows.

* January LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

No LUC meeting this month.

Carolyn to check with Brian and see if he’s attending GBOS. She may attend as well.

**New Business**

Girdwood Trails Committee election of officers in February.

**Other Business**

 None

Meeting adjourned at 8:18PM.