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**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

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

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

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order**

7:02PM Carolyn Brodin

Agenda approved 6-0

October Minutes approved 6-0

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

* Girdwood Lions Club request for support for formal dedication of Lions Park

Lions Club requests support from Trails Committee to have park along Glacier Creek dedicated. Currently is used as park under a Management Agreement, but this could be changed by HLB and property could be used for another purpose. Lions Club has presented at LUC and GBOS in October, and will be seeking Letter of Non-Objection from LUC and Resolution of Support from GBOS at their November Meetings. No real action required of Trails Committee as they couldn’t write letter of support until next meeting, by which time the other letters will have gone out. If anyone has objections to this dedication, they should bring them forward to LUC and GBOS to be considered.

Ken Wilkinson says that he has heard rumor of Safeway looking at land across from Community Center. Kyle Kelley states that he’s not heard anything about this, but there was movement to have Tract 5 prepared for sale. This would require major site review, so there would be notice and discussion of it. That tract is the only commercial one in the area.

Group discussion found no objections to this change, and opportunity for additional partnership with the MOA and Lions Club for events at the site.

**Old Business**

* Interagency Land Management Agreements : Kyle Kelley plans to get together with Kyle Kidder to discuss and complete the forms shortly. This land is managed by Alaska State Parks currently, and owned by DNR. Current agreement with ASP expires in 2017. Brian Burnett states that Leslie Schick may also be able to help.
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*Trails Issues:*

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access

No news from DOT. Kyle Kelley to call Vicki Swann to follow up. There was public comment

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 1, 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

period on lease of Dario’s kennel area to a paragliding group. Kyle Kelley commented to request info on it as it progresses, no follow-up has occurred yet.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

95% plan completed. Expect project to go to bid in Feb/March

Group discussed safety at crosswalk and that Kyle is working to see about Girdwood Service Area purchasing pedestrian activated flashing light for the intersection, installing it and maintaining it. Currently working through understanding of ultimate liability of this MOA item in DOT right of way.

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan

Completed last of trail descriptions today. Plan to pull together draft in upcoming meetings and then present to Trails Committee and LUC/GBOS. Plan for public meeting in FEB/MAR to review with public.

* Hand Tram Kiosk Committee (Alison Rein)

Alison was not at the meeting. Brian Burnett requested that the group be able to review the maps and copy again before it goes to print & see a copy of the drawing of the kiosk structure..

Diana Livingston asked if Alison is sending a formal agreement to Schubert for the timing, cost of the structure completion.

* Girdwood Hand Tram at Four Corners

Locked for the season on 11/2. Ran well all summer, with lots of passengers. Need to keep up with annual maintenance and tensioning of the rope. In spring, need to have inspection. Dwaine Schuldt to provide Brian Burnett with the name of another person who is able to complete these inspections.

* Moose Meadows/Alyeska Playing Field Survey

Surveyor has been out ill for past several weeks. Kyle Kelley to follow up to make sure he will be able to complete this task. If not, we’ll have to find another surveyor.

* Winter Grooming

Kyle Kelley plans to take snowmachine in for maintenance and have studded track put on. Expect a work party to clear shrubs and prepare for winter grooming.

* Discussion of summer trail work for 2016

GBOS approved $25,000 for trail work in 2016. Trails Committee needs to determine how to spend this money at the January meeting. There is also $17,000 in matching grant funds that Trails needs to use.

Some ideas are:

 Lower Iditarod Trail with USFS

 SCA work on Beaver Pond Trail

 Athabascan Trail bridge over Tiny Creek

Ken Wilkinson recommends work on boggy part of Iditarod Trail (South end), which is impassable now due to standing water. Group discusses temporary fix to this problem, but sees overall solution a possible re-route of this section of trail by USFS in their Iditarod re-alignment.

Group discusses value and ability of volunteers to handle brushing and work on ends of trails, hiring SCA to work on mid-sections and challenging trail building projects.

Molly Hickox states that the Iditarod Trail is important teaching/leaning center for kids at the school.

Group doesn’t want to abandon work on Beaver Pond Trail, and is inclined to split work among projects.

* Discussion of change in GTC monthly meeting date

Pros and cons of changing date to first Monday of each month discussed. No clear reason to change or not to change. Group decides to leave on the agenda for next month.

Margaret Tyler suggests that some official meetings are dedicated to trail work.

* Discussion of unauthorized trail work on Abe’s Trail

Carolyn Brodin discussed damage to Abe’s trail by people wanting to re-route the trail for biking. Roots were cut and debris was left on the original trail, in an effort to change trail route. She has spent several hours on the trail restoring it to original location. Signs were posted to advise that unauthorized work is not allowed.

Kyle Kelley says that when people ask about working on trails, he recommends that they attend trails committee and seek permission, explain their plans. It is a violation of land use to work without the endorsement of Trails Committee and Parks and Rec.

Group discusses writing an article for Turnagain Times that touches on this. Concern is that without clarification, people may not realize that the public lands may not be altered without permission. A positive article that discusses projects that trails/projects has worked on (Winner Creek Extension, Nordic Trails, Abe’s Trail and hand tram) and invites people to join Adopt-A-Trail or work directly with Trails Committee.

* Other Trails Issues

No items discussed

*Budget and Grants*

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

$14,154.12 in account,

RAC Grant is at $7345.00

RAC Grant is at $2.042.82 once tram rope and kiosks are paid for

* Anchorage Park Foundation Grant update

No funds spent yet, report sent in by Carolyn on 11/2.

* GBOS Budget update

GBOS funded $25,000 for trail work and $3,000 in materials

*Updates*

* Turnagain Times Article

As discussed earlier, Kate to be asked to draft article on work of Trails Committee, inviting participation at volunteer events and reminding folks to get permission to work on trails before setting out.

* November LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian Burnett is attending and will provide reports. Carolyn may also be there.

**New Business**

* Adopt-A-Trail info from Brian Burnett

Brian Burnett is on the board of Alaska Trails. Group is finding great interest in Adopt-A-Trails and already has applications from a group in Valdez and Girdwood seeking trails to sign up to work on.

* Alyeska Ski Club Adopt-A-Trail Program

Ari Stiassny spoke on behalf of Alyeska Ski Club. Interested in applying to work on Abe’s Trail, California Creek Trail and Beaver Pond Trail to collaborate efforts with Girdwood Trails Committee. Lia Slemmons contacted him through raft company to see about adopting a trail, but he thinks ASC is a better fit. ASC has recently restructured and this would fit with their community-oriented mission.

Lots of kids, lots of energy, parent support and good community effort. Goal is to get 10-20 people to sign up for work party.

Carolyn says this would be a great way to handle brushing a projects so that Trails Committee can work on infrastructure elements of trails and paid work groups like SCA can do heavy lifting on difficult projects.

Will Brennan asked about work parties and those efforts of Trails Committee. Carolyn says it’s been a while since the last group project – Abe’s Trail work with grant funds. Lots of effort went in to Hand Tram before that.

**Other Business**

* Public Safety Task Force Update

Trooper post closure postponed until June 30, 2016.

Troopers have now proposed option to stay and be funded by taxpayers @ $1.3-$1.5 million.

Town Hall meeting on November 21 at 12:30 to discuss options and see what the public thinks about the various public safety scenarios that have been researched by the Task Force.

Expect item to be on the ballot in April election

Brian Burnett promoted the Alaska Trails Fall Fundraiser, November 11.

Please attend, share on Facebook and encourage others to participate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58PM