

**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

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

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

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order**

Agenda approved

September 1, 2015 Minutes approved

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

Tim Charnon, USFS Glacier Ranger District Manager and Griff Berg, Forest Engineer provided update regarding USFS activities on nearby trails:

**Iditarod National Historic Trail in Girdwood:** Goal is to have connected route separated from highway that extends the length of the trail. Current scope in Girdwood is to work on the area that was platted and dedicated last year with AWWU and Industrial area platting work.

Now that the easement is dedicated, USFS can provide investment in trail work.

USFS is currently seeking construction permit with the MOA.

Design phase during the winter.

Hope to begin construction in spring 2016.

There is no guarantee of funding, but there are phases that are likely to be able to work on.

RAC Funding for the bridge across California Creek. This could be in partnership with Trails Committee.

Leftover funding from other projects may be able to be moved to this project.

USFS is in contact with the Alaska Railroad, and there is softening of the no-pedestrians near railway with successes in the whistle stops and popularity of the recreational opportunities with railroad access.

Girdwood Trails Committee has grant for $17,000 with Anchorage Parks Foundation, which could also be used on the initial phase of the bridge project. We need to use this funding/match in 2016.

Kyle Kidder asked if we are obligated to use the current route, or if there is flexibility as there is bank erosion on California Creek and poor trail routing near current bridge crossing. Tim Charnon answered that there is an established easement, but the trail can be relocated within that easement and the goal would be to route the trail in the best way possible.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 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>



**Iditarod National Historic Trail from Upper Winner Creek:**

Working on trail to com out at 20 Mile. Currently dead ends at Rosehip bridge. Trail has been flagged now 4.5 miles into 20 Mile drainage. Trail route is steep and difficult. Saw team now on board with Chugachmuit.

**Iditarod National Historic Trail on Seward Highway MP75-90:**

DOT proposes work on MP 80, relocating section at the curve at Portage and AWCC. Project includes replacing 5 bridges and easing the curve degree. This provides opportunity to establish Iditarod trail along this section that is separate from the Seward Highway and would connect to the Trail of Blue Ice in Portage.

Diana Livingston says she’s been watching the STIP for 2017-19 and hasn’t seen the road rehab in the plans. The bridges are in the plans over those years. Tim Charnon says they’ll check on this. Since the bridges will move, it would not be possible to do the bridge work without moving the road.

Anyone who wants to see the proposed layout of the road can contact USFS. Alison has it, as do others.

Kate Sandberg asked if the plans include a parking lot and path to be added for hooligan fishers and pedestrians from Girdwood to Portage. Tim Charnon said that fell out due to cost. Dwaine Schdult asked about widening the shoulder to accommodate this traffic on the highway.

**Bartlett to Grandview project:**

Reflagged. Perhaps able to cut next summer.

**Bridges on Turnagain Pass trails**

4 bridges for Turnagain Pass have been designed: Falls Creek, Victor Creek, Ptarmigan Creek and Lion. Girdwood Trails Committee add Ingram to the list of bridges needed. There are 2 Ingram Creek Bridges, one at Eddie’s access and one near Center Ridge at main parking at Turnagain Pass.

Federal Land Management Agency, FLMA Meting:

November 2015 ½ day field day at Alyeska

Looking for non-federal partners – this could be a good project for Ingram Creek bridges.

RAC Grant:

Tim Charnon requested update on how the GTC is doing with spending their earlier RAC Funding. Diana Livingston updates that we’ll be using all the remaining funds before they expire on 9/16/16. Currently $5562.82 remains, most will be spent on kiosks for hand trams. Likely also purchase a couple more tools as Alyeska provided list of items that are needed. Letter of closeout will be provided in September 2016.

**Old Business**

* Interagency Land Management Agreements (Kyle Kidder)
  + California Creek Trailhead (Chugach State Park land on Crow Creek Rd)
  + Beaver Pond Trail/Abe’s Trail

Need application from MOA to DNR to proceed. Kyle Kelley says this is on his list to do once things slow down in fall.

*Trails Issues:*

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access

Moved equipment off the land. Mark Ryan is seeking permit for hang glider operation in Darios old space. DOT is continuing to look in to developing the other sites for aviation use.

No info on the status of trail access.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

Design at 95%. Bid this winter for summer 2016 construction.

GBOS working on ways to make crossing of Alyeska highway at Hightower safer.

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan

Met earlier tonight working on trails descriptions.

* Hand Tram Kiosk Committee (Alison Rein)

Received quote from Schubert for construction of kiosks and materials.

Plan is to have volunteers do the placement, dig holes, pour concrete, etc.

Estimate is $3520.00 for both kiosks

This leaves $2,000 in RAC grant, minus cost of printing.

Motion: Girdwood Trails Committee moves to accept Schubert’s bid of $3520.00 for construction of 2 kiosks to be completed by March 31, 2016.

Motion by Diana Livingston, 2nd by Kate Sandberg. Motion passes unanimously.

* Girdwood Hand Tram at Four Corners

Plan to close after first heavy freeze or end of October. Rope is saturated with water and hard to pull. Becomes more difficult from here on out. Hand tram will stay closed throughout the winter.

Kyle Kidder asked about synthetic options for haul rope. Kyle Kelley says they’re lighter and dry more quickly, but we’re reluctant about the security, safety and feel more confident with the steel core.

* Moose Meadows/Alyeska Playing Field Survey

As-Built survey needed to see where utilities, etc are. Surveyor hasn’t had time to begin project yet. Project will provide info to help us redesign to improve parking, design, drainage.

Tim Charnon says that this could be a project for a FLAP grant as this is the only official trailhead for the Winner Creek Trail.

* Girdwood Inc Open House on 9/19 update

Program was attended by 60 people. To date, 25 groups have been supported by Girdwood Inc, and 10 of them were present at the open house. Anticipate that this program will grow in future years. This was the first one.

* Other Trails Issues

Alaska Trails Workshop on September 19. KMTA will use as a model for other events. Recommend follow-up with volunteers to get them ready for future projects. Work on figuring out project for SCA next year and combine with these volunteers.

Abe’s Trail: Caroline Brodin says that it looks like someone has been brushing Abe’s trail. Perhaps using a 4 wheeler and doing sub-standard work. Group thinks this is likely mtn bikers.

Kyle Kidder suggests reaching out to the group to have them attend Trails to see if we can get them in line with plans and avoid going rogue. They can provide input and work on plans in master plan.

*Budget and Grants*

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

$13,154.12 in account, $500 is reserved for trail signs

$80.03 remains in Forest Fair funds for grand opening

$5562.82 in RAC grant, but we’re spending it

* Anchorage Park Foundation Grant update

Need to provide update to APF regarding plans for grant project.

* GBOS Budget

$24,000 in budget for 2016 maintenance. Trails Committee needs to decide what projects to focus on in 2016 by January.

Grooming and fuel are separate budget items from overall trails. Requesting $3500 for fuel and $2000 for maintenance. Plan to meet with Nordic Ski club in November.

*Updates*

* Turnagain Times Article

No article, we do have articles going in winter edition.

* October LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian Burnett on for both

**New Business**

* Discussion of change in GTC Meeting date

Brian Burnett has suggested change to 1st Monday night/month for Trails Committee regular meetings.

Tue night races, other events that people may want to attend.

Kyle and Margaret state that Monday nights would be better for them also, but that Tuesday is manageable.

Kyle says that with fire hall under construction, space will likely be needed for training nights consistently on Tuesdays during remodel.

Trails committee members state that it has stayed on TUE nights because there are often holidays that land the first Monday of the month.

**Other Business**

* Public Safety Task Force Update

Kyle provides update that task force continues to look at options. Nothing is set in stone. Trying to get an idea of the costs associated with various options currently under review:

Whittier Option @ est $500,000. This number needs to be vetted further.

It is still not known if there is a possible grant option with troopers or what that would cost.

Ballot initiative is a placeholder so that if Girdwood wants to try have an election on this in December, it can. It is looking unlikely that there will be an election prior to trooper pull-out December 31. In that case, election will likely take place as part of April general election. Next task force meeting is 10/22 at 7PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM