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**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

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

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

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order** 7:02PM

Agenda Approved unanimously

Added: update regarding Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor.

August 4, 2015 Minutes approved unanimously

Added: note regarding correction to source of reimbursement to Kyle Kelley.

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

* Lia Slemons, from Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm (KMTA) regarding Adopt-A-Trail training on September 19

Lia is trail liaison for Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area. Group is working on restoring and preserving trails in the KMTA area. They are a non-profit administered by National Park Service. Grants are typically $10,000, but they can work on projects in stages. Current grant cycle is open, closing in October.

Kyle Kelley notes that once RAC grant is complete KMTA would be great source for hand tram grant funding. Lia states that grant cycles are usually October and May, they can grant outside of those times, however.

Regarding Adopt-A-Trail training on 9/19/15.

Currently taking registrations, please contact Lia if you plan to attend.

Looking for businesses and other entities for Adopt-A-Highway type work and recognition on trails. Group brainstormed some contacts for her:

If youth are able to participate: Girdwood School, PTA, Four Valleys, maybe UAA.

Alaska Wildland Adventures, Ascending Path, Chugach Outdoor Center, Restaurants, Rotary, Lions Club, Alyeska Ski Club. Alyeska Resort is unlikely, as they maintain so many trails on property. They might be great match for Winner Creek Extension Trail.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor Update from Sean Holland and Edith McKee, DOT

Project is 90% through with design phase, slated for 2016 construction along with work on Alyeska Highway repaving and narrowing.

Likely put to bid in the first quarter of 2016.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 6, 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

Challenges currently are:

Drainages, buried utlilities, dolly varden in ditches.

Project stays within State of AK Right of Way. Paving 5’ up the driveways that cross the path may require that equipment is located outside of easement during paving.

Research has shown that more accidents occur when the pedestrian crossing is away from the main road crossing. Therefore, they have designed this path to sweep toward Alyeska Highway at main crossings (mine roads and any intersection with more than 10 lots attached). This “sweep” is causing design challenges with drainage and utilities, but they are working through these issues.

For crossings of driveways with less than 10 lots attached, the path will not sweep out, but the sight triangle will be cleared to provide better visibility.

Alison Rein says she disagrees with the sweeps.

Other items:

Streetlights remain the same.

Removable Road signs that were discussed earlier in the year are coming; currently held up in MOA Traffic department. Since it’s already September, likely acquire them and wait until spring to place them for the summer season.

Flashing light at crosswalk:

Pedestrian traffic and vehicle traffic at the intersection don’t allow for push-button flashing crosswalk. In order to do this, community could write letters to legislators, representatives to create political pressure.

Crosswalk:

Both sides of crosswalk at Hightower/Egloff/Alyeska Highway intersection will be marked in final paving.

**Old Business**

* Interagency Land Management Agreements (Kyle Kidder) – No report

*Trails Issues:*

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access – Kyle Kelley spoke with Vicky Swain with DOT. Developers of hangars are still in the preliminary phase of the process.

DOT wants to place fence to keep public away from runway, however funding is not secured.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor – Reported earlier in agenda.
* Girdwood Community Trails Plan – Met just prior to this meeting. Working on trails descriptions.
* Hand Tram Kiosk Committee (Alison Rein) – Alison showed mock-up of artwork for kiosks. GTC owes $300 for graphic designer, she provided bill to Diana for payment.

Suggestions on sign:

Fix phone number for who to call regarding problems with tram (343-8374 is correct number).

Suggestion on sign kiosk:

Recommend add specific identifier for people calling for help. Burn in “Crow Creek Road Side” and “Alyeska Side” so that people who need help can let folks know where they are. Another option is to add GPS coordinates.

Project can be installed in spring, 2016.

* Girdwood Hand Tram at Four Corners

Need to fix door so that it doesn’t rub under the rope.

* ADL 232281 extension of Arlberg Avenue and parking lot.

DNR is requesting input regarding the permit for extension of Arlberg Road. Current plan also includes parking lot at the end of the road. Comments are due by September 21. Likely start removing trees this fall/early winter.

* Other Trails Issues

None

*Budget and Grants*

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

$13,454.12 in account. This will bump to $14,936.72 when reimbursed for haul rope by RAC grant.

$500.00 reserved for trail sign purchase (small trail marker signs)

Grand opening funds remaining from Forest Fair $80.03

RAC Grant balance after paying for haul rope is $5862.82.

Most of this is earmarked for Hand Tram Kiosks and signs.

Group requested refined budget for kiosks from Alison to be presented at October meeting.

* Anchorage Park Foundation Grant update

Project on hold as USFS committed to working on Iditarod National Historic Trail.

Group asked Alison to see if Tim Charnon will come to October Trails meeting to discuss.

Trails Committee needs to decide where to use the approximately $18,000 from Anchorage Park Foundation Grant, remembering that we must match the funds with volunteer hours, etc. By the beginning of 2016, Trails Committee needs to have solid plan for how to use these funds.

* Correction of reimbursement to Kyle Kelley for tram haul rope @ $1482.60 from RAC Grant and SCA Dinner @ $150.00 from Trails Girdwood Inc account

Group specified that reimbursement should come from fuel fund in motion made at last meeting, however sources of reimbursement are:

$1482.60 for haul rope to come from RAC Grant

$150 for SCA Crew is to come from General Girdwood Inc Account.

* Survey of Moose Meadows parking lot and Alyeska Playfield.

Next project after tennis courts is to work on the Moose Meadows parking area and Alyeska Playfield. Parking is inadequate at Moose Meadows, Playing Field needs work and possibly to be relocated in order to resolve drainage issues. Area is Class C wetland and can be developed as long as properly permitted. Recent addition of utility boxes makes it clear that survey is required prior to any conceptual planning.

 In order to move forward with this, the area needs to be surveyed. Cost of survey is $3600.00. Kyle requests that this is paid for out of remaining 2015 grooming fuel fund and leftover trails materials fund (balance is approx $5,000 combined)

Brian Burnett says that Moose Meadow parking is key to winter and summer parking. Nordic club is gathering funds to replace bridges behind church.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to reallocate funds remaining from the 2015 Winter Trail Grooming fund and from the Trails Materials fund to pay for an as-built survey of the Alyeska Playing Field and Moose Meadow Parking lot.

Motion made by Norm Starkey, 2nd by Alison Rein.

Motion passes unanimously.

* 2016 Trail Maintenance funding from operating budget.

Kyle presents that he will be requesting $25,000 for trail maintenance and $3,500 for equipment budget discussions starting on 9/9/15.

Trails item is the 2nd largest line item, behind Non-Profit Grants.

Overall, budget will be flat again this year.

*Updates*

* Turnagain Times Article

Kate working on article regarding SCA work this summer. Needs photos to submit with article.

Margaret will submit winter rec guide article. Mostly a re-write of previous years’ article with new trail map/logo. Let her know if you have other items that you think should be added to the article.

* September LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian Burnett attending both.

**New Business**

 None

**Other Business**

* Public Safety Task Force Update

New info sheets passed out to Trails Committee.

Discussed Whittier Police option, which is being researched.

Task force should hear more from the State regarding keeping troopers soon.

Cathy Giessel is to report back on some action items she committed to for next meeting.

* Girdwood Inc Open House on September 19

Group decides to take new trail maps to meeting

Meeting adjourned 8:55PM