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**Meeting Minutes**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, April 5, 2016**

**Glacier Ranger District Office, 7pm**

**Call to Order** 7PM by Carolyn Brodin

Agenda approved.

There will be no report from Michelle Ritter. Schubert presented earlier than in agenda.

March 1, 2016 minutes approved.

**Announcement:**

May Trails Meeting will be hike on Beaver Pond Trail to establish firm scope of work for SCA. Trails Committee will meet at the Glacier Ranger District and then walk Beaver Pond Trail. If Michelle Ritter is able to come to discuss the Olympic Mtn Loop signs in May, there will be a short meeting for her to present the map draft prior to field work.

**Old Business**

* Alaska Trails Volunteers/Alyeska Ski Club agreement

Kyle Kelley says that this agreement is almost ready to be signed. Should be complete this week. Brian Burnett adds that the program in general is gaining traction, as Conoco and other groups are donating funds as seed money to Alaska Trails Volunteers.

* Hand Tram Kiosk Committee (Alison Rein)

Schubert arrived with the kiosk structures on a trailer to show the Trails Committee. Style is timber frame, roofing is still to be installed. Each kiosk weighs about 600 lbs. Schubert recommends keeping them outdoors, if they dry they may crack, and since they’ll be installed outdoors, drying them is not necessary. They will be stored in the Industrial park until installation.

Installation will require rock work on the East side, concrete pad to be constructed on the West side, installation of brackets that can hold structures. Schubert recommends that Tom Swanson do the rock work.

Other requirement for installation will be super sack of gravel, cement, tools for future tram work, volunteers to dig holes for West side installation.

Plan to do this end of April, beginning of May, so that it will be complete for tram opening in the beginning of May. Margaret to check on KMTA funding refreshments for volunteers.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 3, 2016 on the Beaver Pond Trail.**

**Meet at the USFS parking at 7:00 pm**

Girdwood Trails Committee Agendas and minutes are available on line: <http://www.muni.org/gbos>



Brian Burnett to talk to Alpine Air regarding slinging equipment to work site.

Estimated costs:

Rock work: $300-$450

Cement: $150-$200

Tools $500-$800

Alpine Air $300

Expectation is that installation will complete spending of RAC grant. This must be completed by August.

Tram needs to be inspected prior to opening, and no inspector is currently available. Only known inspector is Dave Wilson. Group discusses getting in touch with zipline operator, who performs inspections.

* Arlberg Extension trailhead connection to the Winner Creek Trail.

There are concerns about winter access by pedestrians to Winner Creek Trail. Parks and Rec is looking in to Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant funding to build separate trail to Winner Creek Trail to keep non-skiers from using the Nordic 5K. Grant application will need USFS help in writing the grant and in building the trail. 9% matching funds will need to come from Trails Committee.

David Ilse states that connector trail will likely need to be the same level of trail (4) as the part of Winner Creek that it connects with, and similar quality as trailhead on Crow Creek Road, with kiosk, bathrooms, etc. Estimate for these amenities is $150,000, plus trail design, engineering and construction for approx ¼ mile of Class 4 trail.

FLAP grant applications are due mid-May. Project will need letters of support from as many local groups as possible, including letters obligating support in work on and maintenance of the facility. Since this project is new, the letters can be in support of the project in concept. US Forest Service, Nordic Ski Club, Girdwood 2020/Inc, Alyeska Resort, etc should be invited to write letters of support.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to write a letter of support to be included in Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant application. Grant application will include design, engineering, and construction of a multi-use connector trail to join the parking area at the end of the Arlberg Extension to the Winner Creek Trail.

Motion by Diana Livingston, 2nd by Michelle Tenny

11 in favor

1 opposed

2 abstain

Motion passes

* Interagency Land Management Agreements (Kyle Kidder/Kyle Kelley)
  + California Creek Trailhead & Beaver Pond/Abe’s Trailhead

No update.

* Discussion of summer trail work for 2016

Girdwood School plans to work on the Athabascan Trail and bridge over Tiny Creek.

Bridge will be 3’x24’. Kids will help haul materials to work site and remove boardwalk.

School is seeking grant funding. Possible that they will update the interpretive signs on the trail, fix trail fabric. Dwaine Schuldt recommends that beaver dam up stream from the long bridge is worked on as water is going to damage the bridge. Possible to get fish and game permits to remove part of that dam.

SCA will work on Beaver Pond Trail and other projects for 3 weeks in June. Contract for this is currently in MOA purchasing. Trails Committee to establish final scope of work for SCA at the May Trails Committee meeting.

Discussion of lower Iditarod trail work will come later in this meeting agenda.

Kyle reminds Trails Committee that this year brushing of trails is going to be handled by volunteers. Parks and Rec has equipment in the garage and is able to check that equipment out to people to brush out trails.

*Trails Issues:*

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access

No news on this. However project does seem to be moving forward as there is a fill and grade permit to move material from Airport project to Industrial Park to use for fill.

* Trail Safety: Pedestrian access from Airport and Railroad land

Kate Sandberg wrote 2 articles regarding safety on railroad land and roads and submitted them to papers.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

Granite Construction was awarded the contract for the project. Once weight restrictions are lifted from the roads, project will begin.

* USFS Iditarod Lower valley improvements (Alison Rein)

Meeting next Monday with USFS and MOA.

Alison is continuing to work on Army Corps of Engineers permit.

HLB meeting went well and project received support.

Planning Charette occurred. Group discussed possible trailhead access points for the trail, including: Under the Alyeska Highway bridge along the railroad tracks; Crossing Alyeska Highway; creating culvert underpass under Alyeska Highway.

At the next meeting, the various stakeholders will provide input and will select the top two options and discuss the pros and cons to each.

Trails Committee will provide input on the preferred option.

David Ilse states that there is perhaps an interim solution to be designated, as well as a long-term one, as the bridge over the railroad tracks will need to be replaced in the future and this could involve engineering work that would make it easier to add a trail along side the railroad tracks.

Work this summer by USFS will be in August, adding gravel.

Kyle Kelley to ask Anchorage Park Foundation to extend grant to next summer, due to delays based on substantial construction throughout Girdwood.

Possible that road project may provide some opportunity to stockpile material to use on trails, pending permitting and environmental consideration.

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan

Group met prior to this meeting and is making edits to the trails plan document. Plan to bring plan to Trails Committee this summer.

* + Request for funds for mapping (Brian Burnett)

No update on cost of mapping.

* Moose Meadows/Alyeska Playing Field Survey

Roads crew recently brushed out the area and opened up view shed toward 2nd parking area along Aspen Road. This will also improve snow storage.

Survey should be completed soon.

* Status USFS/MOA/GTC Memorandum of Understanding (Kate Sandberg)

(exp 2017). Plan to work on this in late summer.

No update.

* Winter Grooming

All equipment is stored. No further grooming in Turnagain Pass. Trails Committee thanked Tim Charnon, Glacier Ranger District and others who helped to make the Turnagain Pass grooming possible.

* Other Trails Issues

Hand Tram Opening (Kyle Kelley)

As discussed briefly earlier in the meeting, Hand tram Opening requires inspection of the tram. Plan is to open hand tram in May, after freeze/thaw cycle has ended.

Group also discussed the future of the Hand Tram, and that the trail experiences more use than the carrying capacity of the tram. Group will need to include long-range planning for crossing in Girdwood Trails Plan document.

Iditarod Trail North of parking area on Crow Creek Rd (Dwaine Schuldt)  
Sign is missing at parking area to let people know about the trail.

Also, trail needs to be brushed and perhaps change trailhead so that it is more visible from the parking lot.

Alison states that that trail was brushed 4 years ago. Signage may have been removed.

Glacier Ranger District (David Ilse)

Summer operations include 5 person crew working on trail cutting at whistle stops at trail from Grandview to Bartlett, as well as some work at Spencer whistle stop.

3 person crew working in Girdwood and Portage, will address some brushing on Upper Winner Creek.

Alison Rein will receive recognition of her achievements in regional sustainable recreational trail building. Kyle Kelley is going to encourage that an article be written.

Ingram creek bridge to access Eddies, etc is #2 or #3 on bridge priorities list. #1 is in Seward, Victor Creek bridge. Hopeful for Ingram to be a construction project in summer 2017.

USFS is working on RAC grant funding to work on Crow Pass Trail.

National Trails Day (Margaret Tyler)

National Trails Day is June 4. If Girdwood Trails Committee doesn’t have a specific event to promote for that day, then perhaps we should plan for flower planting/beautification and promote that on the Trails Day calendar. Group agrees that if no other event is planned in the next few weeks, plan for planting on that day.

*Budget and Grants*

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report | | |
| April 5, 2016 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $14,936.72 |
| Reserve for Trail Signs |  | (500.00) |
| Reserve for Forest Fair Fund |  | (80.03) |
| Balance Unreserved Funds |  | $14,356.69 |
| RAC Grant Funds |  | $5,562.82 |
| Committed for Kiosks |  | (3,520.00) |
| Uncommitted RAC Balance |  | $2,042.82 |

RAC Grant funding (Hand tram kiosks) must be spent by August 11, 2016.

* Grants

Parks and Rec will work on FLAP grant application

Applied for National Trails Grant application for $5,000. Notification of grant award is expected in May.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article

No article this month as we sent 2 out recently.

* April LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative is Brian Burnett

**New Business**

**None**

**Other Business**

Brian mentioned that he is working on a Girdwood Trails Marathon, to be held the 8th of October, 2016. He will bring it to Trails Committee in June as New Business. Route will loop throughout Girdwood Valley and use all trails. Plan is for this to be a fundraiser for segments of the trails.

Meeting adjourned 8:49PM