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**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, February 2, 2016**

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order**

Agenda Approved

January 5, 2016 minutes approved

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

* Olympic Mtn Loop Trail Map (Michelle Ritter, Dowl): Still in winter shutdown. Tabled for March/April.

**Old Business**

* Alyeska Ski Club Adopt-A-Trail

Brian Burnett recently attended AK Trails board meeting. Group may change the name of the Adopt-A-Trail program.   
Kyle Kelley met with Ari Stiassny and Steve Cleary to review agreement and all are still on board. ASC may start to work in May with evening projects, and will likely do work in fall as well as part of dry-land training.

Diana Livingston says that someone should approach Girdwood Rotary regarding Adopt-A-Trail program as they have been involved in trail work in the past, on the Athabascan trail.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to accept Alyeska Ski Club’s application to work through an agreement with Alaska Trails as volunteers on the Beaver Pond Trail. Work to be performed on the trail will be done under the supervision of the Girdwood Trails Committee.

Motion by Brian Burnett; 2nd by Kate Sandberg

Motion passes 9-0

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

Kyle Kelley chipping away at this.

* Consider change to Operating Procedures to stagger terms of officer service.

This item was brought up by Gary Galbraith at the last meeting, with concern that having full turnover of the board would be hard to recover from. Trails Committee discusses and decides there is no need to change Operating Procedures at this time.

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan preliminary review

Plan will be ready for review at April meeting.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 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



* Discussion of summer trail work for 2016

Tiny Creek Trail Bridge project will be done in conjunction with the school.

Scope of work for SCA on Beaver Pond Trail.

Cost is $23,000 for 3 weeks of SCA staff.

Scheduled for late June/early July

Determine scope of work at GRC meeting in April and plan outdoor work session in May.  
Work with Adopt-A-Trail on coordinating volunteers.

Scope of work for Trails Committee on Lower Iditarod Trail

More on this during Alison’s discussion later in the agenda.

Staff are working on Grant through American Hiking Society to be added to project.

*Trails Issues:*

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access

Kyle spoke with Vicky Swain recently. Matt Workman has been pursuing development of hangars at undeveloped area past current hangars for 2 years. Area to be developed is just past the current turnaround area, construction would require removal of material in order to place hangar on the taxiway and extend the existing road beyond its current terminus. There is a 1.5 page punch list of items that must be completed before construction can begin, drilling test holes was part of the list. He has not turned in any final documents regarding the punch list items yet. However, this is a permitted use of the area and developer will not need to address Trails, LUC or GBOS with his plans.

Kyle expressed community concern to Vicky about volume of traffic that will be on the road during removal of fill for construction.

Vicky is being reassigned to other airports. New contact will be Johann Mueller.

Otherwise, tract C, Dario’s old lot does not have a new lessee. No one came to take away items from Dario’s dog sled operation, so the state has taken possession of the land and will clean it out. There are 3 applicants for the space now, but it may go back to open bid after cleanout is complete.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

This project should go out to bid in March. Kyle reminds Trails Committee that there are lots of projects slated for 2016:

Alyeska Highway and bike path

Arlberg Extension and parking lot

Egloff Drive

Fire Station

* USFS Iditarod Lower valley improvements (Alison Rein)

Getting ready for HLB meeting on March 10, where Alison will present the project.

She’s gathering old resolutions and other materials for the meeting. IT would be helpful if people can attend to show community support for the project. Meeting is at 11:30AM on Elmore Drive in Anchorage.

After receiving approval from HLB, she’ll be working on getting necessary permits.

Leaning toward moving phase 3 off of the eroding bank of Glacier Creek and instead using the trail currently in use, which is on a platted road corridor. If the road is ever built, the trail would be along the side of the road, but would tie in nicely with path planned for Egloff road construction project to be completed this summer.

Plan for phase 1 is to fill with gravel, hauled to Girdwood by truck and stored across from Monarch Mine Road. Construction on Alyeska Highway will need to be considered in logistics of this project. Other options (elevated walkways and using AKRR for hauling) appear to be more expensive. Plan is to keep the California Creek Bridge in current location.

GTC can front funds from Girdwood Inc account for gravel and then repay the account when grant funds are received.

Alison’s time and other USFS materials are to be considered donations and will help GTC hit the match required for the Anchorage Park Foundation grant.

National Trails Day is June 4. This should become on of the signature events for Trails Day and we can work on recruiting volunteers for this.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to recommend that the Girdwood Board of Supervisors update a Resolution of Support for all three phases of reconstruction work on the Girdwood lower valley Iditarod National Historic Trail as presented in draft construction plans. This work is to be done in cooperation with the Chugach National Forest, the Alaska Railroad, and the Alaska Department of Transportation.

Motion by Brian Burnett; 2nd by Kate Sandberg

Motion passes 8-0; 1 abstain

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan

Plan moving forward. Plan to present to Trails, LUC and GBOS beginning in April

Ask to place request for funds to pay for mapping for the trails plan on March Agenda. Brian Burnett will request proposals for mapping costs.

* Hand Tram Kiosk Committee (Alison Rein): Review draft content for kiosks

Alison provided copy of poster to be placed at kiosk. Small changes provided, it looks good.

* Moose Meadows/Alyeska Playing Field Survey

Kyle was required to go back and get 3 bids for the work. Tony Hoffman with Lantec received the bid award and will work on surveying soon.

* Winter Grooming

2.8k groomed in Turnagain Pass.

Brian recommends 2nd grooming on Feb 12 for holiday weekend users.

Comment period open now through Feb 19 on uses in the park. Encourage people to submit comments on how they would like the park to be used. Some ideas are: allowing more volunteer grooming, competitive Nordic events, etc.

Brian Burnett to provide link to Margaret to send out to the group.

* Other Trails Issues

Arlberg Road Extension has been awarded to Bristol construction. Start in spring with vegetation removal, avoiding nesting season when they cannot take trees down. Goal is to finish by the end of July. Project includes road, bike path, parking lot.

Athabascan Trail is now open. Someone placed boards across Tiny Creek so that it can be crossed. Beaver dam is damaging the big bridge across the beaver pond.

Beaver Pond Trail was cleared of blow down trees.

*Budget and Grants*

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| February 2, 2016 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $13,154.12 |
| Rreserve for Trail Signs |  | (500.00) |
| RAC Grant Receivable |  | 1,782.60 |
| Reserve for Forest Fair Fund |  | (80.03) |
| Balance Unreserved Funds |  | $14,356.69 |
| RAC Grant Funds |  | $7,345.42 |
| Amount Submitted |  | (1,782.60) |
| Committed for Kiosks |  | (3,520.00) |
| Uncommitted RAC Balance |  | $2,042.82 |
| Note: No Change from January Report | | |

* Grants

Margaret provided draft narrative for American Hiking Society Grant. Request that edits are sent to her.

*Updates*

* Turnagain Times Article

Kyle Kelley discusses new newspaper, Glacier City Gazette.

No articles currently planned.

* February LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian Burnett to attend both

**New Business**

* Discussion of mapping by contractor of trails for Trails Plan and other uses.

Already discussed, will be old business next month for vote.

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

Agreement expires in 2017. How do we get it extended? Kate working with Alison to get this project under way.

**Other Business**

* Public Safety Task Force Update

Assembly approved ballot proposal for April election. Task force will meet next week.

Meeting adjourned 8:55PM