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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, June 7, 2016**

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order**

Agenda Approved

May 3, 2016 minutes Approved

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

None

**Old Business**

* Alaska Trails Volunteers/Alyeska Ski Club agreement

Agreement is signed and ASC did approximately 4 hours of brushing work on trail.

* Arlberg trailhead connection to the Winner Creek Trail/FLAP Grant (Kyle Kelley)

There was not time to complete this grant application with other issues taking staff time.

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

Kyle Kidder has moved to Anchorage, but he may still be great resource on this. Kyle Kelley in inquire who is best contact in future. Brian Burnett recommends also checking with Matt Wedeking, as the area will fall under Alaska State Parks after DNR releases it, and Alaska State Parks is interested in having Girdwood Trails take it on.

* Summer trail work for 2016:

SCA on Beaver Pond Trail

SCA crew has arrived and started work yesterday, in the pouring rain. They have reached the base of the switchbacks , accomplishing clearing and creating a 4-5’ tread base. Expect to have them make it to the hemlocks and work on the roots. Their schedule is MON-THU 10 hour days, and they’ll be here for 3 weeks total. Kyle is trying to secure time in their schedule and funding to pay for additional week in the fall.

Update on Girdwood School work on Athabascan Trail bridge & other projects

Girdwood School did lots of work during Days of Service in May. They completed the bridge rebuild across Tiny Creek on the Athabascan trail, and hauled lots of gravel on various trails, as well as other projects.

* Considering cancelling July 5, 2016 GTC meeting

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to cancel July GTC meeting.

Motion by Brian Burnett, 2nd by Deb Crogin

Motion passes unanimously (9-0)

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at the Girdwood Community Room**

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



*Trails Issues:*

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access (Kyle Kelley)

No formal contact regarding construction of new hangars at the Girdwood Airstrip, however contractor has set aside space to store material to be removed from this site at the Girdwood Industrial Park when construction begins. DOT has removed remaining items from Dario’s old lot. With road going straight instead of curving in to the airstrip, this could help reduce potential aviation conflict with pedestrians.

Group also discussed that beavers are damming creeks that the bridges cross to the north of this construction area. Brian Burnett states that if Trails Committee doesn’t object, he will seek permits to have beavers and dams removed. Trails Committee comments on destructiveness of beaver damming activity, no real alternative but to remove them and the dams in order to preserve the bridges and trail. Group discussed that soon the overflow will reach the AWWU manhole, but by then there will be damage to the bridges. Group agrees that Brian can pursue getting permits to deal with the problem.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

Open House just scheduled to discuss the project and timeline. Meeting is next THU June 16 at 7PM in the Girdwood Community Room.

* USFS Iditarod Lower valley improvements (Kyle Kelley)

Prior to retiring, Alison Rein created great plan for lower Iditarod trail.

Andy Hehnlin has been working to create truck-accessible route to get material in to the south end of the trail, and it is now accessible for an F550 dumpbed to provide material.

During Budget discussion, will discuss payment and reimbursement of these funds.

The USFS does plan to work on the trail, likely in the fall, with the goal of working on removal of alders and adding fill material. It is estimated to need 370 yards of material to reach the California Creek bridge.

Kyle Kelley will try to get additional time from SCA crew to return to Girdwood in the fall also.

In addition, Trails Committee should plan on a work day on the trail this fall.

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan
  + Request for funds for mapping (Brian Burnett)

Small group met prior to regular Trails Meeting and discussed getting minor editing completed by Kyle and Margaret and turning the document over to be professionally edited and maps created by Agnew Beck. Brian Burnett is in touch with Agnew Beck to create scope of service and receive estimate on total cost. Trails may want to consider applying for grant funding to help pay for this. Brian has 4 hours of consulting work with Agnew Beck to donate toward this cause.

Group plans to present document to Trails, LUC, and GBOS once editing and maps are complete, perhaps in September.

* Hand Tram Kiosks (Kyle Kelley)

Kiosks construction almost complete – Alison and Norm are installing posters today. Remaining item is just roofing by Schubert.

Diana Livingston is eager to have all bills related to this turned in. Some questions about whether the concrete and Swanson’s work will be included in Schubert’s bill. If there are funds remaining, Kyle will use them to purchase tools. Grant needs to be completely wrapped up and final paperwork submitted in September.

* Moose Meadows/Alyeska Playing Field Survey

Survey should take place this month.

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

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

Tabled until next meeting.

* Other Trails Issues

Virgin Creek Falls trail – John Gallup emailed Carolyn Brodin to ask about trail work on Virgin Creek Falls Trail. Trail is braided and muddy and needs work. Brian Burnett states that this should be added to future trail work for 2017, to add gravel, work on boardwalk and drainage. Concern that the GTC is focusing efforts on trails that they have easement to, and that parcel, although set aside in land trust, it still is in Skilling’s name on municipal maps. Carolyn Brodin to check on status of land trust and trails ability to work on the trail with municipal funds.

Reclaiming Bridges – Brian Burnett reports that he was contacted by Jacques Boutet regarding 2 pedestrian/bike path bridges that are being removed from Anchorage trails this summer. Girdwood can receive the uprights, which could then be decked and become the supports for future bridges in Girdwood. USFS has agreed to allow storage of the bridge pieces at their yard in Portage. Darren Mattingly has a truck large enough to move them to that location until final uses are determined.

*Budget and Grants*

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report | | |
| June 7, 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 |
| Expended for Kiosks |  | (3,614.79) |
| Cash Balance Current |  | $10,741.90 |
| RAC Grant Funds |  | $5,562.82 |
| Expended for Kiosks |  | (3,614.79) |
| Balance Expected to Pay |  | $1520.00) |
| Uncommitted RAC Balance |  | $428.03 |

RAC Grant:

Group discussed that final bills must be turned in by Schubert so that Diana can close out the grant. Kyle can purchase tools once he knows final budget to complete the grant. Diana also stated that getting photos to include with final report would be great.

Anchorage Park Foundation Grant:

Kyle provides bill from Andy Hehnlin for work on Lower Iditarod Trail access @ $1465.00. This will apply toward Anchorage Park Foundation match.

USFS work will also apply toward the grant match: Alison’s time, USFS Time, material, trails committee volunteer time. We won’t have completed the grant match before the end of the summer, so Carolyn will need to call Park Foundation to ask for extension.

Group also discussed possible fundraiser ideas: Beer night at Challenge Alaska, Christmas Bazaar, perhaps a trails event fundraiser, Fungus Fair.

* Grants

Will Brennan mentioned that there’s a grant open for up to $10,000 called People for Bikes. He suggests that the Beaver Pond Trail may be a great match for this as trail work brings this to bikeable condition. Iditarod trail can already be biked.

Letter of interest needed in June, grant application due in Sept/Oct.

Trails application for American Hiking Society grant was not successful.

Anchorage Park Foundation Grant was discussed previously in the agenda. Action item for Carolyn Brodin to talk to Park Foundation to secure extension of grant through next summer.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article

Kate Submitted Trails Article to Turnagain Times Summer issue.

Group discusses next article inside scoop on accessing trails during busy construction season and outlining pedestrian improvements that construction is providing.

* June LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian Burnett attending both.

**New Business**

* Girdwood Trails Marathon, October 8, 2016 (Brian Burnett)

Name change to maybe the Glacier City Trail Loop Marathon

Date change to October 1, 2016, which matches Resort’s Oktoberfest in the Daylodge.

This will be the first trail marathon loop in AK and is intended to be a fundraiser for Girdwood Trails land managers. In exchange, Brian requests help from the land managers to put on the event – direct trail traffic, man an aid station, water station, etc.

Proposed route begins and ends at the Daylodge parking lot. Registration area TBA.

Route is: Daylodge, Alyeska bike path, Lower Iditarod Trail, cross highway near Forest Service road, Bird-Gird bike path to Beaver Pond Trail, up Abe’s, down California Creek, Crow Creek Road to Pallet Trail, Athabascan trail by school to Upper Iditarod alignments along Crow Creek Road, Winner Creek, cross hand tram, Winner Creek to Upper Winner Creek for 3 miles, turn around at rock garden, down Upper Winner Creek & Winner Creek, take Zugs cut to Nordic 5 K loop, after 5k pass hotel up ch 7 and down ch 3 to finish at Daylodge.

No ½ marathon this time. Expect 30-50 participants 1st year and for it to grow in future.

Brian Requests vote in support of the race by Girdwood Trails Committee. This was introduced at the last GTC meeting, so although it is new business, it is not the first it’s been discussed at trails.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to support the Glacier City Trail Loop Marathon, which is a multi-trail looping event scheduled for the first Saturday in October, annually.

Motion by Diana Livingston, 2nd by Lynne Doran.

Motion passes unanimously, 9-0

Discussion included Will Brennan’s concerns about use of the trails for dedicated purpose on busiest day of the week, especially the Winner Creek Trail.

He recommends considering establishing a max # of participants in the event in the future. He also suggests that race includes obligation of trail work as part of entrance fee.

Other trails members recommend ½ marathon or 10k option in the future.

**Other Business**

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM