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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, March 1, 2016**

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order** 7:02PM Carolyn Brodin, Chair

Agenda Approved

February 2, 2016 meeting minutes approved

**Introductions**

 Group includes members of the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club

**Old Business**

* Alyeska Ski Club Adopt-A-Trail. Alaska Trails is changing the name of program to Alaska Trails Volunteers.

Agreement with Alyeska Ski Club and Alaska Trails is currently under review by the Municipality of Anchorage. Plan is to have work session in spring and fall to brush Beaver Pond Trail.

* Interagency Land Management Agreements (Kyle Kidder/Kyle Kelley). Working through this slowly to establish agreements for the California Creek Trailhead and Beaver Pond/Abe’s Trail Trailhead.
* Discussion of summer trail work for 2016

Kyle met with SCA recently to discuss work for summer 2016.
Crews of 7 will arrive mid June and will work for 3 weeks (15 days), ending just after Forest Fair weekend.

Plan for May Regular Trails Committee meeting to be outdoor work session to hike the Beaver Pond Trail and establish firm scope of work for SCA.

If we are awarded American Hiking Society Grant of $5000 which we applied for in February, we plan to bring SCA back for another week of work during the summer and would put that time toward their work on the Lower Iditarod Trail. SCA has indicated that they are available. Otherwise, strong volunteer effort from Trails Committee to work on this trail. Alison Rein states that she will need help in coordinating volunteers and getting work parties scheduled.

Replace bridge over Tiny Creek on the Athabascan Trail. Marcus Ackerman confirms that the school has Intensives scheduled for May 5 and 6 and that their focus is going to be on a Day of Service to give back to the community.

Dwaine Schuldt states that we need to get permits to remove beaver dam that is causing overflow near the bridge at the beaver pond.

Let the school know of other community projects for them to focus on during intensives.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at the at the USFS Office 7:00 pm**

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

*Trails Issues:*

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access

No new information on Trail access. It does sound like the developer for the new hangar may proceed with removing the dirt embankment this summer. No contact with the new leasing officer for DOT; Vicky Swann is changing jobs and will not be the contact.

* Trail Safety: Pedestrian access from Airport and Railroad land

Discussion carried over from last month regarding pedestrians and loose dogs on airport land as well as railroad concerns of pedestrians on the railroad tracks. Railroad provided link to information on rail safety. This would make a good article for local newspaper.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

Project should go out to bid in the next 2 weeks. Project scope is to rebuild the bike path and make it wider, narrowing the roadway for the Alyeska Highway. Once contractor is determined, there will be more information on how they will go about the project and then we will have a better idea of how to work around the construction to accomplish other trail goals.

* USFS Iditarod Lower valley improvements (Alison Rein)

Alison is preparing for the HLB Board meeting which is March 10 at 11:30AM at the MOA office on Elmore Road.

LUC is expected to provide motion of support for the trail upgrades; GBOS will provide Resolution of Support. Both those meetings are after March 10, however. Alison can use the old resolutions and cite on-going support for the project.

Design Charette with all the land-owning stakeholders of the trailhead and the USFS is being scheduled. There was a bit of a hiccup in getting everyone on board to discuss a possible trailhead from the railroad hub.

Working with Enstar for permit to use their easement to haul gravel to the work site. Concern with how Alyeska Highway construction may impact access to this work site.

At last Girdwood Trails meeting, committee expressed support for moving the trail section that runs from Ruane Road to the Community center away from Glacier Creek and instead on the side of the currently undeveloped Karolius Road. If this is the case, it is Tim Charnon’s thought that the trail would stay on bike paths all the way to the Girdwood School. After the school, the trail would go back to being more of a forest trail. Trails Committee agrees that this makes sense, and is a better use of resources than building a different trail along the eroding river bank when others that are already developed exist.

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan

With work session scheduled at regular GTC meeting in May, the date for presenting the plan is shifting to June. No progress on mapping and no idea of costs associated with this part of the project. Brian will continue to work on this.

* Hand Tram Kiosk Committee (Alison Rein)
Alison has seen photos of the kiosks. They are heavier than anticipated and are located in a place that is hard to move them on to a trailer. Deb with Alpine Air says they are willing to help, but will not fly over the neighborhood unless they have agreement with the Crow Creek neighbors. Group discusses other ways to get the kiosks loaded on to trailer, no conclusion reached.
* Moose Meadows/Alyeska Playing Field Survey

Likely survey will take place this month. Need an as-built establish where utilities, etc are before any progress can be made in changing the layout of the area. Plan eventually is to move the playing field toward the Conex’s, improve the drainage, and improve the parking.

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

(exp 2017)

When Alison asked about starting the Memorandum of Understanding USFS staff seemed to think it was too soon. MOU will need to go from USFS to MOA for review. Not anticipating any changes, but the original MOU took a long time to establish. Group decides to focus on this in the fall, but keep it on the agenda in the meantime.

* Winter Grooming

Girdwood Valley grooming season is over as the access is now closed with the start of Arlberg Extension road work (see below, Other Trails Issues). Nordic Ski Club has groomed in Turnagain Pass and plans to again this season.

* Other Trails Issues

Beaver Pond Trail has several trees down.

Clearing began on Arlberg Extension today. There is a fence at the Arlberg T to discourage people from using that access.

*Budget and Grants*

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report |
| March 1, 2016 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $13,154.12 |
| Reserve 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 February Report |  |

Diana says that refund may be greater than what was originally expected for some work associated with hand tram grand opening. She’ll work with Alison to get full amount due refunded.

Margaret asks if group is interested in participating in the Visitor Industry Charity Walk in 2017. Too late for 2016. Basically sign up, get donations, walk and split the pot with other non-profits. Takes place in Anchorage the 1st week of May, annually.

* Grants

Applied for National Hiking Society grant of $5,000. Should hear results in May.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article

Kate Sandberg to write article and submit to Glacier City Gazette.

Confusion over what to do with 2 newspapers.

* March LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian Burnett to attend

**New Business**

* New Arlberg Extension trailhead connection to the Winner Creek Trail.

New road will have parking lot for 20 cars at the end, near where the cat road connects to the current access route. Concern is that there is no winter access to the Winner Creek Trail from this new trailhead. In summer, all can use the Nordic 5K access, but in winter this is not acceptable to the Nordic Ski Club.

Nordic Ski Club and USFS encourage Girdwood Parks and Rec to apply for Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP grant) to pay for trail to be built to connect this parking area to the Winner Creek Trail. FLAP Grant application deadline is in May.

Girdwood Nordic Ski Club thinks that this should be a year-round trail so that people do not need to be re-trained in using a different trail in winter. Alison Rein points out that this creates yet another large trail swath in an area that already has many trails. She suggests a winter trail be added. Group discusses what sort of trail is required. Are there considerations regarding ADA compliance, etc that need to be factored in, as the Winner Creek Trail is accessible. Group discusses permanent restroom facilities for the parking area. Kyle Kelley states that parks and rec Anchorage-wide use Rent-A-Cans as contracting this service out eliminates issues with maintenance and operation of the equipment. Group also discusses info kiosk to be placed at the parking lot.

Kyle to research FLAP grant and to present his findings on restrooms/trail access/kiosk and info on grant at the April GTC meeting.

**Other Business**

* Public Safety Task Force Update

Ballot initiative will be on the April General Election ballot. Ballot proposal is whether or not to give GBOS police powers.

Adjourn: 8:25PM