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**Minutes**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, September 6, 2016**

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order**

Agenda Approved with addition of Olympic Mtn Loop Shuttle Stop Conversation

August 2, 2016 minutes approved with addition of quotation marks around Kyle Kidder’s comments.

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

Lia Slemons, KMTA

Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance members: Dan Starr, Adam Hoke, Jeff Hoke, Nick Georgelos, Greg Lawton

**Old Business**

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

No new information, Kyle asks to table this item until later in fall.

*Trails Issues:*

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access

No news on this item. Possible construction of new hangar has not yet started, no contact from DOT Aviation on access restrictions.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

Construction under way. Bike path is being widened to allow better passing and road is being narrowed for traffic calming.

Expect asphalt milling of road to the T intersection with Arlberg in the next week, with re-paving starting WED September 14 if weather permits. Project expected to be completed by the end of this season, however contractor may not fully wrap up until spring, 2017.

* Iditarod Lower valley trail improvements (Kyle Kelley)

Update and status of volunteer work needed

Kyle Kelley recently talked to Glacier Ranger District regarding this project. Group is working through permitting with Army Corps of Engineers regarding identifying locations of culverts.

Carolyn Brodin to provide update on status of project to Anchorage Park Foundation and request extension of grant period for this project to next summer. Progress in access and grant match is under way with Alison Rein’s time, Andy Hehnlin’s work in the early part of

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 4, 2016 in the Girdwood Community Room at 7:00 pm**

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



the summer, materials. Delays have occurred in permitting, and with road construction on Alyeska Highway. Kyle Kelley offers support in writing update.

Next summer, Trails can seek additional grants from KMTA and use SCA staff as well.

Will Brennan with USFS says his crews are wrapping up summer projects at Railroad Whistle Stops next week and will be focusing on projects closer to Girdwood, including this one. He has 8 staff until October 15. Depending on status of permitting, they may be able to brush trail from California Creek Bridge to south Trailhead and possibly add gravel to trail tread. He asks for Trails Committee thoughts on width of trail: 8’ vs 6’ trail. Trail needs to be wide enough for people on bikes and with strollers to pass one another, and wide enough for 4 wheeler to accomplish brushing work efficiently. He will check in with Tim Charnon at USFS for additional details.

Lia Slemons states that KMTA is interested in providing funding for additional SCA crew time to work on trails in Girdwood. SCA worked on the Beaver Pond Trail last summer. She recommends Trails Committee evaluate needs in upcoming year and apply for grant in upcoming cycle (September 10 deadline, or March, 2017). KMTA funding comes from National Park Service, and require non-federal match of material, labor, etc on 1:1 basis. Grants typically are $5,000-$25,000.

Kyle Kelley states that current budget for 2017 is for $25,000 to be spent on trails with SCA crew, which is about 3 weeks of work. Beaver Pond Trail received bulk of the SCA crew time last year. Trails Committee will decide on priorities for 2017 work. Ideas for crew are to continue on Beaver Pond Trail through the Hemlocks to improve trail in that section, approx. 1 week. Other time could be spent on Iditarod Trail work. Additional time through KMTA grant would help.

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan

Group met prior to this meeting and are going to continue work editing the document and making some changes to info on Hand Tram, Nordic Trails, possible bike trails. Still working on getting the document in a format that is easier to review and edit, possible that it will be broken down into chapters and circulated for editing. Group has tabled mapping for now.

Girdwood Mtn Bike Alliance group is encouraged to send member to attend Trails Plan meetings to ensure that the mtn bike community is represented in the planning document.

* Hand Tram

Kyle Kelley reports that the barrel lock and the gate locks have broken this summer. He replaced with cable lock that is inside the tram car. He recommends that the tram car is flown out this year for maintenance in the garage. Work includes replacing lock mechanism and checking the welds, flying out ropes from replacement this summer.

Kyle thanks the volunteers who help work on the tram, and Alpine Air for their support. Tram is a great asset to the community, traffic on hand tram is very high. Tram is located on HLB land outside of the Girdwood Service Area, which has recently been noticed by MOA legal department. Need to consider options in addition to hand tram to allow better flow of traffic, perhaps footbridge.

* Moose Meadows/Alyeska Playing Field Survey

Kyle will be in touch with surveyor now that roads projects are wrapping up for the summer.

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

(exp 2017).

Margaret to send MOU copy to all Trails Committee members to review prior to next GTC meeting. Plan is to work on 5 year extension of existing agreement.

Please review and provide comments at the next GTC meeting in October.

* Glacier City Trail Loop Marathon, October 1, 2016 (Brian Burnett)

Erin Leighton has volunteered to help Brian on organizing the event.

Likely to have at least 50 people participate in the marathon. Brian considering a cap on participation, likely fewer than 100. Proceeds from the run will be donated to the land managers of the various trails that will be used for the event.

* Olympic Mtn Loop Shuttle Stop map

Margaret reports that she provided edits to Dowl Engineers, and that they provided changed copy with those edits. Map is to be installed at shuttle stop, as is a Girdwood Chamber Map.

* Other Trails Issues

Carolyn states that illegal work on Abe’s Trail continues. It is clearly a bike route now.

*Budget and Grants*

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report | | |
| September 6, 2016 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $11,689.12 |
| Last Report 8/2/2016 |  |  |
| Reserve for Trail Signs |  | (500.00) |
| Reserve for Forest Fair Fund |  | (80.03) |
| Balance Unreserved Funds |  | $11,109.09 |
| Receivable for Hehnlin Work |  | 1,465.00 |
| Cash Balance Unreserved |  | $12,574.09 |
| RAC Grant Funds |  | $5,562.82 |
| Expended for Kiosks |  | (3,614.79) |
| Schubert Invoice Paid |  | (1,770.00) |
| Uncommitted RAC Balance |  | $178.03 |

Kyle promises to spend $178.03 on lock and tools for hand tram and provide receipts to Diana. Final report is due soon to close the grant.

* Grants

Status of Anchorage Park Foundation Grant: As discussed earlier, Carolyn Brodin will seek extension of grant when she supplies progress report to APF.

Other Grants:

Girdwood Parks and Rec to apply for

KMTA Grant (September 10)

Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant (October).

Will Brennan reports that USFS received grants for Winner Creek Trail and some work on Crow Pass Trail.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article

Kate Sandberg to write article in September on summer trail work.

September LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian Burnett will attend on behalf of Trails.

* Trails Representative for Girdwood Inc Roundup on Sept 23.

Kyle Kelley will attend on behalf of all Parks and Rec programs.

**New Business**

* Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance (Dan Starr)

After meeting in August, Dan began grassroots organization Girdwood Mtn Bike Alliance. Members in attendance. Current concept is to work with the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club to develop trails inside the existing Nordic Loop for single track biking trail. Group will attend Girdwood Nordic meeting this month to present idea and see how it is received by the group. If received well, GMBA will work on draft plan and will seek support from other groups and residents in order to take this to HLB for permission to work on trail development.

Brian Burnett offers that AK Trails could be a good resource, and also STA.

Kyle Kelley offers Girdwood MOA staff support.

Kate Sandberg suggests that group send representative to monthly Trails Committee meetings.

**Other Business**

**None**

Meeting adjourned 8:30PM