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**Minutes**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, April 4, 2017**

**USFS Glacier Ranger District Conference Room 7pm**

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

Agenda Approved   
 March 7, 2017 minutes approved with change

**Announcements**

None

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**Roundtable introductions, there are several attending Trails Committee for the first time.

**Old Business**Girdwood Nordic Ski Club/GTC Sub Committee Update

Sub Committee did not meet, although GNSC and members of GTC collaborated on survey questions.

Girdwood Nordic Ski Club met after GTC in March for their regular meeting, and the membership approved changing their proposed trail width to a 10’ wide trail with 2’ shoulder (12-14’ clearing width)

Updating the trail survey was main priority of GNSC and members of GTC. Both groups put a lot of effort in to survey questions. Carolyn explained that some of the questions that GTC members proposed that wereabout what types of trails are wanted/needed by the responders were not included; however, several of the GTC suggestions to the wording of the questionnaire were incorporated in to the survey questions, and the location and newly proposed 10’ width were clearly stated in the questionnaire.

Survey was rolled out in electronic format on MON night and paper version was available for voters to participate in at the community center on TUE (MOA Election Day). Early results are favorable to trail concept; many paper version results have not been tallied yet.

Deb Essex read a letter that outlined an individual’s concerns about the new proposed trail, and clarified areas that were points of contention in the letter:

* GNSC has followed the process for proposing a new trail. Trail proposal was originally brought to GTC in Jan 2015 and re-introduced with conceptual trail map in fall, 2016.
* The goal now is to build a trail that is wide enough for a groomer to pass through safely (10’) and for snow to fall and accumulate on the trail. Previously this has been described as being wide enough to skate ski by GNSC, however grooming is really the goal.
* The trail that is an economic benefit to the community. GNSC has met with Girdwood 2020.
* The site as it is properly zoned as Resort Commercial Development.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 2, 2017 in the Girdwood Community Room at 7:00 pm**

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



* GNSC agreed at LUC to create a joint sub-committee with GTC but the initial meeting has not yet taken place. It remains a goal to create this sub-committee.
* HLB, as the landowner of this parcel, requested meeting to discuss their conceptual plan. HLB became aware of the trail concept as part of routine updates of items that are discussed at public meetings.

Brian Burnett and Kate Sandberg agree that the public contact regarding trails at the survey table today was excellent. There were many positive comments about trails and interest in trail concept. Lots of people are interested in trails, many don’t know that GNSC and GTC are not the same organization.

Bill Spencer is asked to provide information on the trail width and location. Community needs to come together to determine what this trail should be. His conversations with GNSC have related to a multi-use trail with a surface that is designed for year-round use. He states that 10’ width is about the minimum required for grooming equipment to pass, this means that trail clearing is 12’-14’, although this also depends upon the location of trees. The goal in this trail construction is to create a fun, interesting trail at as low a cost as possible with as minimal disturbance to the forest and surrounding area as possible. This is now different than the original GNSC proposal of a 3.5 meter trail with 20’ clearing cut.

Brian Burnett requests that a vote of confidence be taken to establish that GNSC should continue to work on this trail concept. This would be similar to the vote taken on behalf of the Mountain Bike Alliance last month. Carolyn Brodin, Chair of GTC, needs to leave the meeting. She states that she would like to review the results of the survey at the May GTC meeting and put it on the agenda for a vote in June. She requests that no vote be taken today.

After Carolyn departed Justin Thomas made a motion to bring the item to a vote, Diana Livingston seconds, Kate Sandberg and Brenden Raymond-Yacoubian move to amend vote to a straw poll.

Some members of GTC are surprised at the motion. They state that the survey was only launched the day prior, results haven’t been tallied. This represents input and comments that have been requested of the public but not yet received. These items should be considered prior to taking a vote. They question the purpose of the survey if not to include its results in the consideration of support by GTC for the trail. Steve Halverson states that GMBA was requesting a letter in order to apply for grant funds. He asks if there is any reason now to move forward with a vote at GTC instead of waiting for survey results and the opportunity for the sub-committee to get together to work out outstanding issues such as ridge trail and proximity and impact to existing Stumpy’s trail. Brian Burnett states that there is no “deadline” upcoming, but that GNSC needs to know if they should proceed in conceptual planning.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to vote on the conceptual plan as presented.

Motion by Justin Thomas, 2nd by Diana Livingston

Amendment: to make the vote a straw poll, the final count of which will not be reported in the minutes.

Amendment by Kate Sandberg/2nd by Brenden Raymond-Yacoubian

GTC votes to approve the amended motion 10 in favor/5 opposed/2 abstaining

Amended Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to hold a straw poll to determine if there is support for the conceptual plan as presented.

Resulting straw poll shows more in favor than opposed to the conceptual plan as presented.

Brian Burnett requests a short break for GNSC to discuss. Upon return to the table, GNSC board requests that GTC sub-committee come to GNSC board meeting on TUE April 11 at 7PM. Kate Sandberg states that Carolyn Brodin will provide a list of the subcommittee members.

Interagency Agreements (Kyle Kelley)

* + ILMA for California Creek Trailhead & Beaver Pond/Abe’s Trailhead

No change in status

* + USFS/MOA/GTC Memorandum of Understanding, exp 2017 Update

This MOU is with the USFS for signature.

*Trails Issues:*

* Alaska Trails Statewide Conference April 20-22, 2017   
  $175 per person to attend. Proposal to send 2 delegates to the conference from GTC.

Proposal at the last GTC meeting was to have GTC pay for 2 delegates to attend the conference. Nick Georgelos and Dan Starr are already registered and have paid. Brian Burnett will attend as a presenter.

Motion:  
Girdwood Trails Committee moves to use GTC funds to pay for up to 2 GTC members to attend the Alaska Trails Conference April 20-22.

Motion by Nick Georgelos, 2nd by Justin Thomas

9 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstain

Motion carries

As the conference takes place prior to the next GTC meeting, the GTC membership will be sent an email regarding the opportunity and asked to submit their names for consideration for the scholarship. GTC Board (Carolyn, Kate, Brian and Diana) will review the members who request consideration and will determine the 2 members to attend.

* Girdwood Mtn Bike Alliance progress report

GMBA met with the USFS and have amended their conceptual plan so that it no longer connects to the Winner Creek Trail, but connects to the Snow Cat road instead. This plan will be presented at LUC next week.

GMBA should hear about their grant application from Anchorage Park Foundation sometime in April.

Planning a fundraiser at the Girdwood Brewery

GMBA to attend HLB meeting on May 11

If all is going well with HLB and grant, they hope to flag the trail in June.

As there is limited time left to discuss this at GTC, it is decided that a presentation of the GMBA amended conceptual plan will take place at the May GTC meeting and a vote can be taken at that time. As the item is new business at LUC in April, no action will be taken until May LUC meeting.

* Summer Trail Work

Contracts being worked out for SCA crew this summer.

* Girdwood Trails App

Email sent out earlier this week with recommendations for trail app, but there has not been time to review the content.

* Hand tram work (welds, paint, lock)

Brian has requested appointment with Unique Machine to work on the hand tram. Logistics of flying it out are still to be determined.

* Winter Grooming update

Heavy rain this week has resulted in grooming discontinued in Moose Meadow until snow pack hardens up.

Grooming continues as possible on the Nordic 5K.

Thank you to Shane Bowlin for his work on the machines and grooming implements.

* Other Trails Issues

None

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

No change since March meeting

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report | | |
| April 4, 2017 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $11,436.72 |
| Cash Account |  |  |
| Reserve for Trail Signs |  | (500.00) |
| Reserve for Forest Fair Fund |  | (80.03) |
| Reserve for Further |  | (3,500.00) |
| Trails Publication Costs |  |  |
| Balance Unreserved Funds |  | $7,356.69 |
| KMTA Grant Receivable |  | $7,000.00 |

* Grants Status report:
* Anchorage Park Foundation Grant (lower Iditarod Trail work)

Close out early in spring, 2017

* KMTA Grant ($7,000 matching for Girdwood Trails Plan)  
  Need to complete match, which will occur with public meetings and follow up on trail plan.
* APF grant for 1 week of SCA work:

Grant application completed for $8,300 grant with $8,300 match

* American Hiking Society tools

Trails did not apply for this grant

* KMTA grant for California Creek Bridge for $5,000 grant with $5,000 match

Also, Kyle updates that he is working with Iditarod group to fund additional late season SCA crew to work on the Iditarod trail.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article

No article for April

* April LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian Burnett will attend

**New Business -** None

**Other Business**

Tommy O’Malley requests GTC member to attend Cemetery Committee meetings. Next one is tomorrow, WED at 1PM in the Girdwood Community Room. Cemetery committee will start to walk the site once snow has melted. Goal is to provide planners with a concept and vision of what Girdwood wants the cemetery to look like, so that these ideas are in the plan from the outset.

Brian asks about mapping of the site: Tommy says he has a topo map and Kyle has an aerial overlay as well.

Kyle offers to attend on behalf of GTC at the meeting.

Gary Galbraith announces that he is heading back to Cooper Landing, this is his last meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:30PM