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**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, August 1, 2017**

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

**Call to Order 7PM**Carolyn Brodin

Agenda approved Michelle Tenny/Eryn Boone

June 6, 2017 minutes approved Ron Tenny/Lin Hinderman

**Announcements**

None

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations:**

Nanette Stevenson, designer who was hired to work on Girdwood Trails Plan through KMTA grant
Kevin Montegue, representative from Our Lady of the Snows Chapel

**Old Business:**

Interagency Agreements (Kyle Kelley)

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

Project currently tabled

*Trails Issues:*

* Review & consider approval of Girdwood Trails Plan document

Trails Plan working group met at 6:30 and agree that the plan is ready for GTC approval. This plan is a working document, and the goal is to update it as needed. There are a few elements still to be added:

Trail descriptions for Winner Creek Extension Trail and Stumpy’s Summer Trail

Language regarding e-bikes, to match the MOA’s position on e-bikes

Appendix 4, which will outline an annual schedule

Changes from previous GTC review and review by HLB have been integrated in to the document

Plan now is ready for approval by GTC to move it forward to LUC and GBOS at their August regular meetings, and to hold a public meeting September 5 at 6PM to invite additional input. Copies will also be available at the library and on line for public review.

Motion:
Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve the Girdwood Trails Management Plan draft with the understanding that it is a living document to be updated as needed by the Girdwood Trails Committee.

Motion by Kate Sandberg, 2nd by Ron Tenny

8 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions

Motion carries.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

Alan Drake and Scott Thomas attended LUC meeting in July and discussed design of sweeps. The project as completed meets the design standards and accomplishes eye contact between drivers and trail users. There may be additional striping on the path, but no changes to the construction/route of the path. It is not possible for GTC

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 in the Girdwood Community Room at 7:00 pm**

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to make changes to the alignment as the path is in the State of AK Right of Way. This topic will be removed from the agenda as the project is complete.

* GNSC Update – No representative from GNSC attending.
* GMBA Update – No representative from GMBA attending, however group discusses that the GMBA held a

fundraiser at the Girdwood Brewing Co over the weekend and raffled off a mountain bike. It is understood that the HLB has set guidelines for construction plans for the future mountain biking trails. Group is working through insurance and establishing themselves as a 501(c)3 non-profit.

* Recap Girdwood Cemetery Committee walk thru on July 16

Carolyn Brodin showed Tommy O’Malley where the established trails run through the proposed cemetery site prior to the event on July 16. Eryn Boone attended the event and reported that 15-20 people attended. There is concern of the cemetery plan from the nearby neighbors.

* Summer Trail Work with SCA wrap-up

SCA worked for 3½ weeks on the Beaver Pond Trail, primarily in the rooty sections to improve drainage and make the sections rideable. They worked through a very rainy stretch of weather and dealt with bear issues throughout their stint in Girdwood. The other ½ week they were unable to be on the Beaver Pond Trail due to bear behavior, on those days they worked instead on brushing the path from Alyeska Highway to Davos to clear sight lines. SCA work on Beaver Pond Trail is complete, APF grant will be closed out soon.

Other summer work that trails wants to complete this summer is on the Lower Iditarod National Historic Trail. USFS is helping to work on permitting with the Army Corps of Engineers. Once permits are in place, Andy Hehnlin is to be contracted to add fill to trail. Bridge project can then begin with steel spans and footings that were donated by Kevin McDermott. Decking and railings will need to be purchased, GTC has grant from KMTA to complete that work, pending permitting.

Paul Crews asks about checking with Alyeska Resort about receiving Chair 1 tower materials when the lift is dismantled to use for bridge materials. Kyle Kelley to check with Brian Burnett about this. There is space to store materials at the Industrial Park.

* Proposed summer trail work party for GTC

Pending permit to work on the Iditarod NHT. This will be discussed at September meeting. Possible brushing project if INHT isn’t possible.

* Girdwood Hand tram at Four Corners

Tram is running smoothly. Likely that Kyle will have inspection that closes the tram for a few hours later this week to double check on how cable and ropes are working.

Volunteer, John Wros, did survey of the tram ridership July 15 and 16 over 2 – 4 hour periods.

Day one 140 passengers and 1 dog
Day two 108 passengers and 2 dogs

Approximately 1/3 of the riders went across and turned around to re-cross via the hand tram.

* Other Trails Issues

Carolyn Brodin recommends the Berry Pass hike. USFS work on the trail is fantastic.

KMTA grant cycle is open. Grant applications are due September 21. KMTA will meet in October to discuss and award grants from this application cycle.

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

Change in account is from purchase of dinner for SCA crew at Chair 5.

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| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $11,286.72 |
| 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 |  | $7,206.69 |
| KMTA Grant Receivable |  | $7,000.00  |

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

Work on the project this fall with gravel will close this grant out.

* KMTA Grant ($7,000 matching for Girdwood Trails Plan)

Conclusion of Trails Plan will close this grant out.

* APF grant for 1 week of SCA work

This project is complete and ready to close out.

* KMTA grant for California Creek Bridge

Need permits from Army Corps of Engineers to complete this project.

* Iditarod SCA late season crew – SCA was able to stay 4 weeks in June instead of adding a week in the fall.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article

Kate Sandberg to pitch story on the Trails Plan to encourage public reading and comment on the plan.

* August LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Kate Sandberg will attend these meetings to present Trails Plan. Brian Burnett also likely attending both meetings.

**New Business:**

* Consider creating backcountry xc ski area with no grooming in area previously discussed as Phase 2 of the

GNSC conceptual plan (Ron Tenny).

Ron Tenny recommends that GTC take the lead on promoting designation of this parcel to preserve rustic trail class and back-country access. Kyle recommends that Ron discuss this with HLB Nicole Jones Vogel to follow steps to preserve the area. HLB is currently pursing inclusion of these lands in Wetlands Bank, which protects from building development.

Group then discussed how to keep trail users on designated trails, including hiking across meadows, biking/hiking shortcuts causing braiding of trails, biking on hiking trails. Design of trails is key to successful trail use. Group discusses signage and education. There is no method to enforce use of trail routes or trail users who improperly use trails.

**Other Business:**

Kevin Montegue asks about trail access along the edge of the Our Lady of the Snows church. Concerns are that trail users are walking through the garden. Kevin says that the church is likely to install split rail fence to protect garden area, within the church lease area. There are also concerns about liability from snow shedding from roof on to access to trails. GTC discussed alternate access to trails with Alyeska Resort a few years ago. At that time Alyeska was not interested in housing trailhead from the parking lot.

Meeting adjourned 8:27PM