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**Meeting Minutes**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, December 5, 2017**

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

**Call to Order** 7PM Carolyn Brodin

December 5, 2017 Agenda Approved
 November 7, 2017 minutes approved

**Announcements**

None
**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

 Roundtable introductions
 Deb Croghan is attending via phone.

**Old Business:**

Interagency Agreements (Kyle Kelley)

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

Land is currently under Alaska State Parks Management, and state parks has notified the Division of Mining, who owns the parcel that they no longer want to manage the land. Kyle has applied for the 5 year land management permit. Renewal will be required every 5 years with Division of Mining.

*Trails Issues:*

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor Sweeps Update.

GBOS has raised this issue with State of Alaska Dept of Transportation; engineers restated that the design is within the design standards. Currently Mike Edgington and Sam Daniel are writing a letter to be sent to DOT Commissioner Luiken, Governor, and Legislators. Please provide input for the letter to Mike and Sam. It is understood that DOT has received more feedback on this item than on any other project in the state.

* Girdwood Trails Management Plan Revisions

Revisions are due in February. Please look at the list and work on your assignments.
Carolyn mentions that she has been confirming legal status of the Virgin Creek Falls trailhead as formal donation of the land to GreatLand Trust was not showing up in land records. Prior to making improvements to the trail, GTC will need to consult with GreatLand Trust. Carolyn is also working adding trail history to the trail descriptions.

* GNSC Update by Peter Zug.

New bridges behind the Catholic Church are complete. Andy Hehnlin plans to smooth the surface of the trail but wasn’t able to get there before freeze-up. Kyle states that he’s been talking to GNSC about getting the top decking from the old bridges to re-use in another project. Plan is to remove the old bridges either this winter or next summer.

Upcoming GNSC events:

Solstice Ski party planned for December 22 at the base of the 5K trail with cocoa, cider.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 2, 2018 in the Girdwood Community Room at 7:00 pm**

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



Memberships will also be for sale at the party.
Groomer training TBA.

Shovel party TBA to fill in divots from the Catholic Church to Crocket’s Bridge.
No new information to share regarding new trail.
GNSC participated at the Holiday Bazaar and sold some new memberships.

* Winter Grooming update

Ready to groom, just need snow.

* GMBA Update

Applied for RTP grant in the fall. Working on other grant applications as well to collect funds to work on construction in summer 2018.

* Other Trails Issues

Carolyn and others have been clipping back devil’s club in Last Meadow on Stumpy’s Trail as it has become overgrown in the last few low snowfall years.

Mike Edgington states that there were illegal traps on HLB land, which were reported to HLB, who referred the complaint to Alaska State Troopers, who are responsible for wildlife issues on this land.

Briana Sullivan asks if the Alyeska bike path needs to be plowed when just a small amount of snow has accumulated. Plowing sometimes creates a less safe glaze over the path. Kyle confirms that once snow accumulates to 2”, all paved roads and bike path are plowed. Ice buildup at overflow areas is better managed with consistent plowing of even small accumulations of snow. There are typically a lot of comments from public requesting bike path plowing, but determining the depth of snow for plowing could be brought to GBOS to reconsider. Bike path is a difficult area for Girdwood Service Area. On the new path we are not able to use a loader, only plow truck, which is an issue when snow berms grow. GSA has requested use of a state trackless machine to blow snow off the path. Girdwood Service Area has been addressing maintenance of the path with DOT as snow clearing and sanding is DOT responsibility.

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

Grant funds have been received from KMTA for $7000 and Anchorage Park foundation for $8250.

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| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $7,786.72 |
| Cash Account Last Report |  |  |
| Deposit from KMTA |  | 7,000.00 |
| Deposit from Anchorage Parks | 8,250.00 |
| Current Account Balance |  | $23,036.72 |
| Reserve for Trail Signs |  |  (500.00) |
| Reserve for Forest Fair Fund |  |  (80.03) |
| Reserve for Further |  |  (7,000.00) |
| Trails Publication Costs |  |  |
| Balance Unreserved Funds |  | $15,456.69 |

* Grants Status report:
* Anchorage Park Foundation Grant (lower Iditarod Trail work): Extension Granted for another year. Working on permitting with Army Corps of Engineers and plan to work on the trail starting in the spring.
* APF grant for 1 week of SCA work: Reimbursement received.
* KMTA grant for California Creek Bridge: tabled while pending permits

Josh Zellmer is doing engineering work on this project, which we will submit for approval to the Army Corps of Engineers.

* RTP Grant application for INHT: ORTAB meeting January to discuss applications.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article

Kate wrote an article for the Winter Rec Guide. However, Turnagain Times has ceased publication.

* December LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian will attend LUC. Carolyn will attend GBOS.

**New Business:**

* Girdwood Trails Committee will elect officers at their January 2, 2018 meeting.
Positions are Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Group discusses the GTC election system, which is pretty informal with nominations and election. Group discusses checking with Kate Sandberg to confirm if she’s willing to continue to serve.

* Deb Croghan has asked about being able to vote while attending meeting via telephone. With our current system, there’s only capability for 1 person to call in. Group discusses that more upgraded systems could be available, including skype and other conference phone systems.

This could raise additional concerns in voting bylaws.

* 2-35’ beams from GNSC for bridge project (Brian Burnett)

Topic tabled.

**Other Business**

Dwaine Schuldt, a long-time supporter of GTC and chair of the Trails Committee for many years, is ill and has moved to Florida with family. Carolyn has an address to send cards. She suggests that at some point GTC might consider commemorative action in his name.

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian asks for a summary of the back-country ski area previously discussed at GTC and brought forward by Ron Tenny. Ron describes the area he proposes to preserve as an ungroomed back-country area. Motion at the November GTC meeting was to informally study the area through the winter and reconsider in March. Mike Edgington asks if this proposal includes Secret Meadow, this is not really clear at this time. Overall plan is to keep the area as undeveloped as it is currently, with possible minor brushing.

USFS has secured grant funding to add path along Seward Highway from base of Turnagain pass (approx. MP 75) to just past the Twenty-Mile bridge as part of the Seward Highway road reconstruction and bridge repair work. Portage Valley Trail of Blue Ice path will be extended 1 mile from Moose Flats to connect with trailhead path along Seward Highway, along with parking areas. This is available for public comment currently: <http://www.sewardhighway75to90.com/>

Eventually, it is planned that the trail would continue up Twenty-Mile to Blueberry Pass/Upper Winner Creek to create the Iditarod National Historic Trail. Also in long-range planning is connecting the INHT portions in Turnagain Pass with this Seward highway trail at MP 75.

Group also discusses the missing bridges in Turnagain Pass from Center Ridge to Eddie’s, which are planned but not imminent, as they must be built to USFS specs for snowload.

Meeting Adjourned 7:48PM