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**MINUTES FINAL**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, February 7, 2017**

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order** Carolyn Brodin 7:01PM

Agenda approved

January meeting minutes approval tabled for March.

More information requested to document Paul Crew’s presentation.

**Announcements:**

GBOS seats D and E are up for election and will be on the April 4, 2017 Anchorage Municipal Election ballot.

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**Justin Thomas attending representing the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club.

 **Old Business**

Interagency Land Management Agreements (Kyle Kelley)

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

No progress to report on this ILMA.

* + USFS/MOA/GTC Memorandum of Understanding, exp 2017 Update (Kyle Kelley)

MOU has been signed by MOA representatives and GBOS; currently with USFS for signature.

*Trails Issues:*

* Update on GVSA vote to annex uninhabited lands

It has been a challenge for MOA to produce language for this proposition as the description of the parcels is difficult without using a map and a legible map wouldn’t be possible on a regular ballot. Special Mail-in ballot was considered, but that special election couldn’t happen until fall. Currently Clerks Office is working on a special ballot that could accompany the regular election on April 5. Plan is for introduction of this at the Assembly meeting on Feb 14 and approval on the 28th.

* Girdwood Nordic Ski Club proposed trail

GNSC is on the LUC agenda for next week to introduce proposed trails. Gary Galbraith asks if GTC should make some statement at that meeting to clarify that GTC has not yet voted in support of the concept.

Kyle Kelley clarifies that the process for this proposed trail is the same as the process for Conditional Use Permits, etc, as far as needing support from the GBOS sub-committees before receiving support from GBOS. In this case, the GNSC will need support from both LUC and GTC, and then will go before GBOS for support.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 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>



Usually GBOS follows the recommendation of the sub-committees. The presentation on Feb 13 is the first presentation to LUC and is not an actionable item at that meeting. LUC vote could be taken at the 2nd meeting of LUC with this agenda item. If there is disagreement between the GTC and LUC, that confused message will be passed forward to GBOS and will be passed on to HLB. HLB will want consensus from Girdwood.

Justin Thomas, GNSC Treasurer, says that the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club is responding to interest in the ski community for multi-use ski trails. Carolyn Brodin says the Girdwood Trails Committee represents all trail users in the valley, and wants to be sure that all users in the valley are on board with whatever plan goes forward. The article by GNSC in the Glacier City Gazette recently was a great step toward reaching out to the entire community with the GNSC proposed trail.

Paul Crews suggests that GTC ask GNSC to put together a task force of individuals to work together to find a solution for all. Concept would be for 3-4 members from GNSC and 3-4 from GTC to work through concerns and find compromises in proposed trail construction.

Motion:
Trails committee moves to ask the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club to create a joint working group to make progress on this project.
Motion by Paul Crews, 2nd by Kate Sandberg
Discussion:
4/4 people or 3/3 from each
They can work on a specific list as well
Carolyn brings up need for another survey that targets all trail users, not focused on skiers. This can be discussed in the working group.
Motion Passed 9-1

Concerns and questions of the GTC were then outlined:
1) Trail width

 GTC proposes a narrower trail with less clearing necessary.

One member suggested some sections narrower than others may work. Is the GNSC amenable to narrowing the trail? See item #3 below

 2) Trail alignment at current proposed location

GTC proposes trail that is as far away from Stumpy’s Summer trail as possible to allow for the current Trail User Experience of that trail. Is the GNSC willing to reroute the trail?

3) Trailhead location

Is it possible to change location of trailhead from the current junction near the bridges? Perhaps a summer trailhead at Catholic Church and winter trailhead at new Arlberg Parking lot.

4) Consider alternate locations for proposed trail

GTC members inquire about possibility of improving existing trails instead of building a new one. Consider Iditarod National Historic Trail or perhaps upgrading the trail surface of the Cat Trail.

Is the GNSC willing to consider other established trails instead of building a new one?

5) Engage USFS with regard to proposed trail impact on the Winner Creek Trail.
 Has the GNSC consulted with the USFS about this trail?

6) Consider alternatives to trail surface. Could “hard surface” possibly could be ground stumps instead of gravel surface?

GTC would like for the ad hoc committee to collaborate on public outreach once the proposed trail size, alignment and tread is agreed upon, and with a focus on reaching all trail users and user groups.

* Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance (Dan Starr) - Progress report

Dan Starr reports that GMBA had a fundraiser on Jan 26 that was well attended and successful. They are now getting ready to work on securing grants, and in order to apply, they need to work on preliminary plans.

For the type of flow trails that they envision, the trail will use the existing terrain features to create short trail, probably 4’ wide and at a 5-8 degree slope. They plan to have preliminary information to provide to GTC to make a motion of support for the trail concept. They are using expertise from GeoContracting and IMBA in preliminary plans. Kyle Kelley states that they could use grant funds to pay for SCA crew to work on trail, as mtn bike group in Palmer recently did.

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access

No new information

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

Work will conclude in spring.

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan – progress report

Cancelled meeting scheduled for this evening at 6PM as both Brian and Kate were unable to attend.

Continuing to edit document and will present once it’s ready, perhaps April/May.

* Girdwood Trails App

No update

* Hand tram work (welds, paint, lock)

MOA staff restricted from working on this until voters add area to the Girdwood Valley Service Area.

May need to form volunteer group to do some early season work on the hand tram.

* Winter Grooming update

Snow 2 weekends ago, lots of volunteers have been working on grooming to keep the trails in good shape.

NCAA race to be held on Nordic Loop on Feb 8. Generally trying to groom on FRI and MON and after snowfall.

* Other Trails Issues

Gary Galbraith asks about posting signs reminding folks to clean up after their dogs. Kyle agrees that might help.

Kyle mentions that next summer Parks and Rec will be installing bear-proof trash cans at the new trailhead at the end of Arlberg and likely will add a location for Rent-a-Can.

Kyle recommends that GTC start to consider summer trail work plans. Currently GTC has funding for 3 weeks of work with SCA. GTC may consider adding 4th week funded by KMTA grant. In recent years, the focus has been on work on the Beaver Pond Trail, to bring it closer to the condition needed for Designed Use as Mtn Bike trail. If that is the direction for summer 2017 work, the main objective will be to work on the rooty areas to make the trail surface bike-able. Group discusses pros and cons of the recent focus on Beaver Pond Trail. One main reason for this emphasis is that the trail is on a dedicated easement and it was a goal to create a loop bike-able route in Girdwood. GTC can change this focus if they want.

Group discussed other work that needs to be done, including Virgin Falls Trail and INHT. Virgin Falls is not currently within the GVSA, and INHT work needs to hold off until permits are approved.

Other grants were discussed at this point in the meeting, they are listed below Grant Status Report.

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report |
| February 7, 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)

$17,000 grant is nearly ready to close out. This grant accomplished design work and clearing of trail, as well as creation of access for equipment to get to the trail work site. We’ll be able to use the reimbursement funds toward other work.

There is a current grant cycle open for APF, this could be Phase II of the INHT project, with plan to hire contractor to finish prep of the trail bed and add material to fill in new trail.

* KMTA Grant ($7,000 matching for Girdwood Trails Plan) $3500 has been expended and another

$3500 will be once the current document work is concluded. Volunteer match is currently at about $2500.

* SOA Recreational Trails Grant ($50,000 request for Lower Iditarod Trail Work)

GTC grant application was not successful. Feedback from SOA was that there was too much information. Application needed to be shorter and more concise.

Other grants currently open:

American Hiking Society Grant – Max $3000 funding. GTC has won a grant from this group before. It’s a good equipment grant as the total fund is relatively small.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article

Group discusses improving public awareness regarding dog poop. Girdwood School recently did a video on this – Kate Sandberg to check with the school. Kyle also mentions this might be a good project for spring service days with the students, maybe making signs, etc.

* February LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Carolyn will attend LUC, as will Brian; Brian will be at GBOS.

**New Business**Girdwood Cemetery Trails (Tommy O’Malley)

Tommy O’Malley states that proposed cemetery land has been studied and 7 acres of the site were found suitable for burial.

Next step is to secure permits, do design and engineering work for cemetery, bridge, and parking lot, and receive a cost estimate for construction. Then the packet as a whole can be sent out to bid.

Tommy requests participation from GTC in determining trails to be developed in the cemetery. He requests that GTC members go and walk the area and make suggestions on trail locations, etc.

**Other Business**

Group is invited to review the draft copies of the interpretive signs that will be placed in Town Square Park this spring. These drafts will be at the LUC and GBOS meetings this month as well.

Meeting adjourned 9:00PM