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**MINUTES DRAFT**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, January 3, 2017**

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order** 7:00PM

Agenda approved with no changes

Approval of December 6, 2016 minutes

**Announcements:**

Election of officers for committees at this month’s meetings – Girdwood Trails Committee and Land Use Committee

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**None

**Old Business**

GTC Election of Officers

Group is asked if there are any parties interested in serving on executive committee. No nominations are offered.

Carolyn Brodin confirms interest in continuing to serve as chair

Brian Burnett confirms interest in continuing as vice-chair
Kate Sandberg is not in attendance, but is understood to be interested in continuing able to serve as Secretary
Diana Livingston confirms interest in continuing as Treasurer.

Motion:
GTC votes to have Carolyn Brodin continue as chair, Brian Burnett as co-chair, Kate Sandberg as secretary and Diana Livingston as treasurer for the next 12 months on the Girdwood Trails Committee.

Motion by: ?, 2nd by Diana Livingston
Motion carries with 1 vote opposed.

Interagency Land Management Agreements (Kyle Kelley)

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

This project is moving forward, but is more difficult because of the multiple agencies involved (DNR and State of AK)

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

Submitting for signatures tomorrow, should be signed before expiration.

*Trails Issues:*

* Review of Girdwood Valley Service Area annexation ballot language

GBOS passed the item with resolution at their last meeting.

Legal dept working on language. This may be special mail-in ballot so that it’s not lost in the rest of the ballot info on the regular election ballot.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 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>



* Girdwood Nordic Ski Club (Brian Burnett) - new trails conceptual plan

Brian Burnett attended HLB meeting in December at the HLB request.

Provided HLB with map of proposed trails; discussed both phases (figure 8 section and the section along the Glacier Creek Canyon Rim); four season, multi-use, multi-species trail system; Gathering public input.

HLB had no special concerns and seemed excited about the trail proposal.

Girdwood Nordic Ski Club has been working on receiving public input through Anchorage Nordic club, single track advocates. Group discusses that getting broader based survey distribution and getting Girdwood local participation. Recommended that there is a workshop held in Girdwood with local participants.

Carolyn suggests that GTC and GNSC work together on community outreach survey with proposed trail described. Existing survey is hard to answer because the trail under review is not specifically discussed. Perhaps GTC should also create a survey.

Group discusses that it is unclear that input regarding proposed trail are being considered by GNSC. How are suggestions about proposed trail style, alignment and width gathered at GTC meeting to be incorporated in the plans as planning documents, survey move forward?

Ideas discussed are:
Trail would be better hiking trail without loops and as a direct route.
Closest dense forest area to the community/only wilderness experience trail to upper valley.
Developed as a ski trail, trail may not be ideal for other user groups, biking, hiking, etc.

Concern about width of trail – possible to develop trail only for classic skiing?

Ski designed trail would allow for area that can be groomed in low-snow years.

There are people who may use trails but need for them to be more open, flatter terrain, etc.

Community “visioning” process for future trail needs

Possible to view both Paul Crews’ concept and GNSC concept side by side and gather input to determine which style is preferred?
Greater Anchorage population interest in trails compared to local Girdwood resident population interests.

Focus and create a pathway for progress on determining the trail route, style, and size.

Paul Crews states that Chugach State Park map shows Stumpy’s trail all the way to Winner Creek. It’s a trail with significant history, a miners trail originally and remains an ideal location for walking trail. He recommends xc ski trail go further up-valley off the cat road. Paul presented map display of cross-section of the proposed trail at various widths as indicated by Girdwood Nordic Ski Club.

Will Brennan asks if the easement could be held while community figures out what best suits the community. Kyle states that the land is part of HLB, which will require community consensus in order to approve plans.

Group discusses the positives and negatives of land being held by parks and rec versus private entity. Alyeska Resort is private entity operating on public land, as is GNSC. There are maintenance and operational costs, insurance, etc that would be a tax burden on residents if these were not managed and operated by private entities.

Brian re-states that this is a draft conceptual plan and the GNSC is operating under the assumption that there is a population that wants the trails to be built. This plan is in early planning phase. Group requests to see changes in the plan based on input from GTC. Group is interested in trails but are interested in narrower trails that are less impact on the surrounding area. Brian Burnett will bring more detailed plan with alternatives to be presented at the May GTC meeting for the group to review.

Julie Jonas asks GNSC to back up a bit and include the community in the visioning of this trail. Will Brennan suggests reviewing this trail construction project among those listed as wish –list items on the new Girdwood Trails Plan to determine and pursue the priority determined at that point.

Suggestion for GNSC set up an email address for people to send their comments and input on the trail.

Carolyn states that the issue is not whether or not to build a trail in Girdwood, but the location and size of the proposed trail and its proximity to Stumpy’s Summer and Winter trails and other social trails in the nearby area.

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

[www.bikegirdwood.org](http://www.bikegirdwood.org) is the new website and it’s up and running.
GMBA expect to provide conceptual plan for mtn bike trails in the upcoming months.
Fundraiser planned for Jan 27, 2017 at Challenge Alaska.
Working on meeting structure – open versus closed meetings – there may be some combination of both.

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access

No update

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

No update, work to be completed in the spring.
Brian asks about Iditaord sign that was removed from Egloff corner.

Kyle says that banner sign will be replaced, Iditarod trail sign

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan – progress report

Plan to bring to GTC in March for board review.

* Girdwood Trails App

No update. May follow up with local web designer to get more access to trails map.
Alaska App – offered to help get Girdwood Trails on their app. Contact is Bob Kaufman. Need original content and gps coordinates, photos of trails.

* Hand tram work (welds, paint, lock)

No update, but it’s still the plan to remove the hand tram cart and bring it to the garage to work on.

* Winter Grooming update

Still thin snow in Enchanted Forest; need more snow to do good grooming in the upper meadows.

Good volunteer effort, with new folks and returning ones.
Snow machines rode the CPG trail to the bridge and back, need more snow.

* Other Trails Issues

None

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

$11,436.72 but we should be reimbursed $3500 for the KMTA grant.

* Grants Status report:
* Anchorage Park Foundation Grant (lower Iditarod Trail work)
Close to $17,000 and will be ready to submit for payment soon
* KMTA Grant ($7,000 matching for Girdwood Trails Plan)

Close to closing out this grant also

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

Should hear about status soon after review by board.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article

Article on hand tram was interesting.

Recommend that bike club produce article for next article.

Trail etiquette article hasn’t been published.

* January LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian to attend

**New Business**None

**Other Business**

None

Adjourn 8:41PM