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**MINUTES FINAL  
Girdwood Trails Committee**

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

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order**

Approved Agenda with addition of Alaska Trails Statewide Conference under New Business.

Approved January 3, 2017 minutes  
 Approved February 7, 2017 minutes

**Old Business**

Interagency Agreements (Kyle Kelley)

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

Kyle Kelley updates that MOA Real Estate is now helping with this ILMA.

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

MOU is currently at the USFS for signatures.

*Trails Issues:*

* Update on GVSA vote to annex uninhabited lands

Anchorage Assembly is voting on whether to have the special ballot at the April election.

Items has support from Weddleton and is likely to pass. GTC can promote this within the community.

* Girdwood Nordic Ski Club proposed trail

At the February meeting, the GTC requested that GNSC form an ad-hoc sub-committee to work on finding consensus between the concerns of GTC and the desired trail. GNSC did a great job at LUC, explaining their goal in building the trail.

Concern with the sub-committee is that it may result in more meetings but no progress. Goal of GNSC is to create ski trails to the ski design standard.

Paul Crews states that he thinks with some change in routing, this could be mutually agreeable. He is interesting in re-routing north section of trail, away from the canyon rim. He states that few people have walked out there, there’s plenty of room to put a trail in where it is outside of the view shed of existing trails.

Group discusses working forward on phase 1 of the project. GNSC says they are seeking the easement for the entire project although the work on the trails would be phased.

Will Brennan restates that the main issue is the width of the trail; Deb Essex restates that GNSC is committed to 3M trail width.

Groups agree to have smaller groups go out on the proposed trail with Bill Spencer to review trail routing options. On behalf of GTC, Carolyn Brodin and Paul Crews will participate.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 in the USFS Glacier Ranger District Building at 7:00 pm**

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



Deb Essex asks about having a table in the lobby of the Community Center on April 4, to reach voters on election day. Kyle Kelley says this will be ok. She will have the map of the trail and a new survey co-written by GNSC and GTC for community members to review and participate in.

* Summer Trail Work (Kyle Kelley)

Beaver Pond Trail:  
Plan to have SCA crew for 3 weeks to work on the Beaver Pond Trail. Submitting grant application for additional 1 week also (see grants below)

Ken Wilkinson mentions that some of the trail work from last summer is now glaciated. Kyle says he’ll go take a look at this and see if there is another technique that could be used more effectively.

Lower Iditarod:  
Kyle to work with the USFS on permitting to work on trail tread. Kyle has spoken with Andy Hehnlin regarding moving material to the trail that was cleared by USFS crew last fall. Also applying for grant to replace bridge over California Creek (see grants below). Iditarod Association may also be a source of funding to work on this trail.

Other:

Trail brushing in May/June. Recommend that GTC use their meeting time to do trail work to keep trails brushed.

* DOT/Airport Upper Valley Trail Access

No update.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor

No update, expect info later in spring on plans to complete the project.

* Girdwood Community Trails Plan – progress report

Sub-committee will bring the Trails Plan to GTC, LUC and GBOS in April.

* Girdwood Trails App

Kyle Kelley spoke with Bob Kaufman with the Alaska Channel, no new information, but there has been contact.

* Hand tram work (welds, paint, lock)

Brian Burnett will set up appointment with Unique Machine to do the work on the Hand Tram.

* Winter Grooming update

Volunteers have been working hard on the trails and they’ve been in great shape. Sean Bowlin is a new volunteer, who has been able to help with machine maintenance.

* Other Trails Issues

Group discusses snow machine use on the Peach Pit meadow – not a groomer and unlikely CPG.

A trap was found by a hiker on the Beaver Pond Trail. GTC decides to send a letter supporting Andy Josephson’s HB40 to provide wider easement from trails for trapping. Paul Crews suggests sending letter to the ADN as well.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to write a letter supporting a 200’ setback for trails as proposed in HB40 by Andy Josephson.

Motion by Gary Galbraith, 2nd by Dwaine Schuldt

Motion carries

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report | | |
| March 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)

GTC will be ready to close out grant in spring.

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

Plan is about ready for public review, which will increase matching hours. Should be ready to close out the grant with the end of public review of the plan. KMTA would like to have this close out sooner than later to match their funding cycle.

2017 Grant applications:

Anchorage Park Foundation: Parks and Rec has nearly completed the application for work on the Beaver Pond Trail. Grant request is for approx. $8,000 to complete an additional week of SCA work on the trail.

American Hiking Society: Grant due on Friday, March 17 Kyle recommends applying for trail brushing equipment.

KMTA: Grant due at the end of the month. Project discussed is work on the bridge crossing California Creek on the Lower Iditarod Trail.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article

Margaret to draft, Kate to update piece for newspaper submission regarding the expansion of the Girdwood Valley Service Area.

* March LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian Burnett plans to attend.

Mayor Berkowitz’s office has scheduled Open Office Hour on March 20 from 6-7PM.

GBOS/LUC joint meeting will be rescheduled to make space for this meeting.

**New Business**

* Girdwood Mtn Bike Alliance – Preliminary trail plan for mtn bike trails at the Nordic 5K loop (Dan Starr)

GMBA has grant application to submit to Anchorage Park Foundation for conceptual planning for mountain bike flow trails within the Nordic 5K loop.

Margaret requested electronic copy of the conceptual map to add to the GBOS website.

Plan is for class 3 biking trails with 4-5’ tread width.

Group discusses how they will handle gaps and mandatory drops. GMBA says those features will have ride-around or ride-over options. Eventual plan is to add mountain biking to other areas inside existing and future Nordic trail alignments.

GMBA requests a letter of support to include in the Anchorage Park Foundation grant packet.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to write a letter of support for the Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance’s concept of mountain biking flow trails in the Nordic 5K loop.

Motion carries.

GMBA will send a copy of their completed grant application to GTC members to review.

* Alaska Trails Conference

ATC is April 20-22, 2017. Cost of conference is $175 per person for all 3 days.

Brian Burnett recommends that GTC send 2 people to the conference.

Brian will also be presenting at that conference.

**Other Business**

None

Meeting adjourned 8:45PM.