****

**Minutes DRAFT**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

**Call to Order**

GBOS Parks and Recreation Supervisor, Eryn Boone attending.

Agenda Approved

Minutes from April 4, 2017 Approved

**Old Business:**

* Presentation of the Girdwood Trails Plan

Girdwood Trails Plan document is projected on the screen and overview provided by Kyle Kelley. Document is on line on the GBOS website for review. Margaret can burn a copy onto a jump drive or cd if needed. Also there will be hard copies available through the library. Thank you to Kate Sandberg, who has contributed at least 80 hours of volunteer time toward this project in editing and working with the designer, Nanette Stevenson, who is helping us through a grant from KMTA.

Working group is seeking comments, input, and photos of each trail to include. Document will be fluid and changeable in order to adapt to changes, new trails, new sports/uses, and maps will be added. Work Session scheduled for MON May 22 for GTC to discuss plan further. After that, Executive Summary will be written and an updated draft will be presented to GTC at their June 6 meeting for approval. That draft will also go on to LUC and GBOS for introduction in June and for public review and comment. LUC and GBOS should be able to vote on the plan in July. Brian Burnett suggests that at LUC and GBOS, the plan cover should be included on the agenda with a link to the document on line.

GTC needs to decide on mechanism to make updates to TMOS and other areas of document and include this information in the plan.

This plan will also be included in the Girdwood Area Plan, which is under review and being updated now.

Send comments to Margaret Tyler (tylerms@muni.org)

Interagency Agreements (Kyle Kelley)

* ILMA for California Creek Trailhead & Beaver Pond/Abe’s Trailhead
ILMA for California Creek Trail is currently tabled

* USFS/MOA/GTC Memorandum of Understanding, exp 2017 Update
This has been signed and is now complete.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 6, 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>



*Trails Issues:*

* Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance: presentation of revised conceptual map

GMBA presentation by Dan Starr. Change to conceptual map is that trail 1 now intersects with the cat road instead of Winner Creek Trail, as requested by the USFS, land manager for the Winner Creek Trail.

Will Brennan explains that it is better to have fewer junctions with trails, and there is an existing junction with the cat road and Winner Creek trail at the cat bridge area.

Trail 1 is planned to be multi-directional, multi-use. Open to suggestions from GTC on the width of the trail. Sightlines are key element of this, but with area brushed, the trail tread doesn’t have to be very wide.

Trail surfaces for all mtn bike trails is to be hardened, smooth and predictable. Trails 2 and 3 are expected to be tread width of 4-5’.

With GTC support, GMBA will go to LUC and GBOS for 2nd meetings in May. Upon receiving their support, GMBA will seek easement for land and begin additional fundraising, volunteer work on the trail.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to support the Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance (GMBA) trail plan as presented and supports the GMBA moving forward in attaining easement for the land, fundraising, and trail building.

Motion by Kate Sandberg/2nd by Steve Halverson

Motion carries 15-0

* Girdwood Cemetery Committee: aerial overlay map of site & request for GTC participation in trail planning

Tommy O’Malley presented a map of the site selected for the cemetery. Cemetery site study is complete, and there are 5 acres of buriable land on the parcel. Cemetery Committee is trying to determine what amenities should be placed on the parcel (parking, amphitheater, columbarium, etc). One element that is desired is a trail system – both a main trail that will require a bridge crossing California Creek and would connect cemetery to other trails, as well as smaller cul-de-sacs to access burial sites and cemetery amenities.

Cemetery Committee plans a walk-through of the parcel and invites GTC to attend on July 16.

* GTC/GNSC Sub Committee Update

GTC members of the sub-committee are Carolyn Brodin, Steve Halverson, Paul and Barbara Crews, Kate Sandberg. Sub committee is planning to meet with Bill Spencer at the Our Lady of the Snows Church at 10AM on SUN May 7 to walk the trail and discuss alignment. Sub-committee will return to GTC in June with an update.

* Summer Trail Work

2017 grant from Anchorage Park Foundation for additional week of trail work by SCA crews on Beaver Pond Trail, in addition to GBOS approved funding for SCA work on the trail will complete trail reconstruction in 2017. SCA is scheduled to work from the 2nd week of June for 3 weeks. Kyle plans to walk Beaver Pond Trail this week to see how work from last summer held up over the winter.

Kyle will meet with Tim Charnon at USFS this week to discuss lower Iditarod NHT bridge project at California Creek. GTC has received donation of 3 I beams that can be used for this project. This received grant funding from KMTA for materials. Project will require volunteer support once permitting is in place.

* Girdwood Trails App

This project is tabled until winter.

* Hand tram work (welds, paint, lock)

Thank you to Brian Burnett and Alpine Air for help today in disconnecting the hand tram and flying it out. Brian delivered the car to Unique Machine today and they expect work to be complete in a week. Work includes: repainting the cart, cutting down the door side so that the door swings freely of the rope, adding latch to the door, repairing welds.

Alyeska Resort lift crew is going to help in re-tensioning the cable, as it has stretched over time and the tram car rubs on the hotel side station when fully loaded.

Plan to fly the cart back out once work is complete and re-attach it. Annual inspection by Dave Wilson is scheduled for May 20. Goal is to have any work required in the inspection complete and the tram open to the public by Memorial Day weekend.

* Other Trails Issues

Steve Halverson reported on his attendance at the Alaska Trails Statewide Conference. Main buzzword in trail building is “sustainable trails”. Attended a session on inventory and mapping of trails. There is equipment that can be borrowed and used. Also UAA has a class that was doing a project surveying trail use, and this may be a good resource for GTC as well.

Deb Croghan asked about sweeping of bike paths – who does this? Kyle answers that this is split between Girdwood contracted crew and the AK DOT. Highway path from Crow Creek Road to bridge is the DOT and they sweep once a year, which was just finished. They will be working on the Alyeska highway projects this summer to complete drainage, back slope on bike path and landscaping. Seed mix and soils used are supposed to be lab checked and invasive-weed free. There has been concern about the swoop of the path toward the highway at some intersections. Jerry Fox has met with DOT about this; he recommends that public send their comments to DOT directly. Contact is Alan Drake or Sean Holland: alan.drake@alaska.gov; sean.holland@alaska.gov.

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

No change from last month. Diana asked about reimbursement from KMTA for $3500 that was expended in December. Margaret to check on this.

|  |
| --- |
| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report |
| May 2, 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 needs to complete some work on this to close out the grant.
* KMTA Grant ($7,000 matching for Girdwood Trails Plan). This grant will close out with the completion of the Trails Plan Document in July. Match is nearly complete.
* APF grant for 1 week of SCA work awarded in April.
* KMTA grant for California Creek Bridge @ $5,000 awarded in April. Project needs kids and volunteers to meet grant application.
* Iditarod SCA late season crew. Kyle working on getting this help on the lower Iditarod Trail.

Upcoming grant cycles:

Wilderness alliance grant program; open now, deadline June 2 [www.wildernessalliance.org](http://www.wildernessalliance.org)
Recreational Trail Grant; opens July 15, deadline October 15. <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>
Land and Water Conservation Fund, open now, deadline July 31. <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/lwcf.htm>
 *Updates*

* Newspaper Article

Tabled until June.

* May LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Brian Burnett

**New Business**

* Discuss cancelling July GTC meeting. Group will vote on this in June.

**Other Business**

 GTC had previously discussed holding trail work session instead of June formal meeting, however there are 2 large items to handle on June agenda: GNSC trail vote and Trail Plan. Group is considering adding a special work party sometime in June/July to brush trails.

Ken Wilkinson states that it would be great to get the Beaver Pond Trail groomed in winter for skiing if there’s another good snow year next winter. GTC could place a sign to keep skiers on winter route.

Meeting adjourned 8:36PM