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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

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

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

**Call to Order** 7PM Brian Burnett

Agenda approved  
 October 3, 2017 minutes approved

**Announcements**

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

The next Girdwood Trails Management Plan revision committee meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2018 at 6PM in the Girdwood Community Room. The group will provide recommendations for updates to the Plan to the trails committee in February, approval expected in March/April by GTC.

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

None

**Old Business:**

Interagency Agreements (Kyle Kelley)

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

No report. Brian explained that the parcel of approximately 4 acres is off Crow Creek Road between the Kircher property and the Raven Glacier Lodge. Land is owned by AK Dept of Natural Resources, but they want to turn it over to Girdwood Trails/GVSA. This could offer opportunity to enhance trail head for the trails in that area.

*Trails Issues:*

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor Sweeps Update.

Responding to on-going community input, Sam Daniel has invited Scott Thomas, DOT engineer overseeing this project, to attend the November 20 GBOS meeting to discuss alternatives to the existing sweeps on the bike path.

* Status of committee to revise the Girdwood Trails Management Plan

Meeting next in February. Please work on task assignments.

* Update on concept of preserving primitive backcountry xc ski experience in area of Stumpy’s Winter and Summer Trails (Ron Tenny).

Ron has been in touch with Deb Essex and the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club regarding this proposal. The GNSC encouraged him to work through the Trails Committee and then bring the proposal forward to GNSC based on the results at GTC.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 5, 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>



Ron Tenny used MountainHub to track various routes that he has taken to map the area that he proposes to be preserved for backcountry. The general location is up-valley to Winner Creek/Glacier Creek from the northernmost point of the proposed Forest Loop and the junction of groomed meadows trails and the cat trail.

This area has never been groomed, and the concept is to keep the area for backcountry, break-your-own trail skiing. (see inset at bottom of this agenda topic)

Summertime use was also discussed. The meadows that are great for winter are too wet for summer. Ron suggested improving the existing trail along the canyon rim, avoiding the meadows. Paul Crews states that improving that trail could be trickier than anticipated, as there are steep pitches that will erode and cause summer and winter users to seek alternative routes. Routing a good trail through the area to preserve trees and backcountry experience while also getting the contour of the trail will take time to develop.   
  
Improving this to create a four season trail would likely initiate a loop used by Winner Creek Trail hikers, resulting is use beyond d the current concept of Class 1 or 2 trail construction. USFS will need to provide input regarding formal junction with a possible improved trail. Interestingly, Stumpy’s trail through the woods from behind the Catholic church to the Winner Creek Gorge is nearly the same length as the Winner Creek Trail from the resort trailhead to the gorge, 2.4 miles. Group discusses that in order to spend public funds on trails, the area must be in the GVSA and have an easement.

Group discusses if these are projects that GTC wants to pursue, and clarifies that there are two items involved:  
Preserving primitive backcountry ski area for ungroomed winter use  
Considering improving current indistinct social trail along the canyon rim for year-round use.

Motion:  
GTC moves to informally study the area for purposes of preserving primitive backcountry ski area for winter use and to discuss results of the informal study in March, 2018.

Motion by Paul Crews, 2nd by Julie Jonas

Motion carries 8-0   


* GNSC Update

Bridges behind the Catholic Church were completed today. Some landscaping will need to be completed and the old bridges still need to be removed. This project came about through a gift from the Knudson family and there will be a memorial bench placed. Funding also came from a 2020 grant and funds from Girdwood Nordic Ski Club. Total cost of the project is approximately $55,000.

GNSC is planning a Solstice event at the Nordic 5K on FRI Dec 22.

GNSC is initiating communications with groomers from last year and will start to plan grooming training to prepare for winter.

Will Brennan asks if it is possible to groom (or just run an authorized snow machine) on the Beaver Pond Trail to allow fat tire bikes and xc skiers access to that area.

* GMBA Update

None

* Girdwood Hand tram at Four Corners

Kyle Kelley, Brian Burnett and Alpine Air removed the hand tram the last week of October. Hand Tram will be painted, welds checked and returned to service in the spring. Thank you Alpine Air for the support, it would be difficult to keep the hand tram operating without their support.

* Winter Grooming update

This was previously discussed under GNSC Update. GNSC is reaching out to last year’s groomers and getting ready for winter grooming season.

* Other Trails Issues

Margaret states that Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm Heritage Area (KMTA) funded through the National Park Service. KMTA board members are selected from the KMTA region (Seward, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, Portage, Whittier, and Girdwood) and a Girdwood resident is needed to serve on the Board of Directors. Organization promotes projects such as bike paths, interpretive exhibits, publishes books on the area, helps to preserve historic sites in the area through grants. Learn more about KMTA and send a letter of interest to be considered for a board position. Website is: <http://www.kmtacorridor.org/>

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

No change from last report.

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report | | |
| November 7, 2017 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $7,786.72 |
| Cash Account |  |  |
| 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 |  | $206.69 |
| KMTA Grant Receivable |  | $7,000.00 |

* Grants Status report:
* Anchorage Park Foundation Grant (lower Iditarod Trail work). Seeking extension on this project.
* KMTA Grant ($7,000 matching for Girdwood Trails Plan). Check should be here soon.
* APF grant for 1 week of SCA work. Wrapping up this grant. Need an invoice from SCA for just one week of work on the trail, pending.
* KMTA grant for California Creek Bridge. Project pending permitting.
* RTP Grant application for INHT. Application completed, no news until December when ORTAB board meets.
* LWCF Grant cycle. TBA.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article/Winter Recreation Guide. Kate and Margaret will discuss the TT Winter Rec guide.
* November LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative. Brian will attend LUC. He will not be at GBOS.

**New Business:**None **Other Business**

Brian says the GNSC has 2-35’ spans of reclaimed beams that could be used for a bridge project by GTC. One idea would be to use them to replace Crockett’s bridge, if this project were performed in the winter it could be done without ground disturbance of the marsh. Benefit of adding the bridge would be to allow groomer access to moose meadows. HLB would require engineering for the project, and Josh Zellmer, who engineered the bridges behind the church, might be able to do this. Paul Crews asked about disturbing the wetlands/creek bank.   
This item will be added as new business to the December GTC agenda.

**Meeting adjourned 8:20PM**