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**Minutes**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

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

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

**Call to Order 7PM Carolyn Brodin, Chair**

Agenda approved  
 September 5, 2017 minutes approved

**Announcements** None

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations** Roundtable introductions. Dinah Merrill and Mark Jonas are new to trails committee.

**Old Business:**

Interagency Agreements (Kyle Kelley)

* ILMA for California Creek Trailhead & Beaver Pond/Abe’s Trailhead  
  Kyle Kelley reports that he is working with Matt Wedeking, Alaska State Parks on this project.

*Trails Issues:*

* Review/discussion of Girdwood Trails Management Plan items to be updated  
  Trails Management Plan was approved by GBOS in September and a Resolution of Support has been written to recommend adoption by the Anchorage Assembly. Kate Sandberg read the GBOS resolution 2017-11. There are some changes to be made to the document, Kate has compiled a task list.

Group decides to have the list of changes emailed and a request for volunteers to take on projects within the list. A working group can be assembled to discuss the work and present them to the full committee in February/March. System for completing this is not yet clear, however prior subcommittee members state that it was helpful for all to get together to discuss.

Group discusses what changes would require GBOS approval of the document. This also is unclear, however the changes that are under consideration at this time are not substantive shifts in the management of trails, but clarifications, corrections, and addition of trails for which descriptions have not been provided yet.

Group discusses the trail description for Stumpy’s Summer Trail, which was not included in the trail plan last month as there was disagreement on the description language and the need for consistency in language with the Stumpy’s Winter Trail description and the trail class/type document within the plan. Group discusses how to handle this. Group decides that they will adopt the Stumpy’s Summer Trail description

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 in the Girdwood Community Room at 7:00 pm**

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written to match the Winter Trail description, which has already been adopted, and to add re-write of both trails’ descriptions to match the proper trail type/class to be presented in February/March to the whole committee to approve.

Kate Sandberg reports that the graphic designer, Nanette Stevenson, who has worked on this project through a KMTA grant, has offered GTC a special rate of $60/hour to work on changes to the document. Her regular rate is $75/hour.

It is not clear if GBOS will need to approve all the changes to the Trails Plan each year or if minor revisions can be made without GBOS review/approval.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve the Stumpy’s Summer Trail description for the Girdwood Trails Management Plan as follows, to match the Stumpy’s Winter Trail description: “The last four meadows and woods are an un-groomed multi-use ski trail.” The language for both of Stumpy’s trails is to be reviewed and made consistent with each other and consistent with the proper the trail class/type as described within the Girdwood Trails Management Plan

Motion by Kate Sandberg/2nd by Julie Jonas

Motion carries 20-0 with 2 abstaining

* Consider creating backcountry xc ski area with no grooming in area of Stumpy’s Winter and Summer Trails (Ron Tenny).

Ron Tenny states that while he supports the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club’s Forest Loop, he sees value in preserving the River View route for backcountry ungroomed use. He states that this is consistent with how other Nordic ski areas handle the need for variety in trail experience for users. He has received input from the HLB, and they have indicated that this can be done, with community support, through change of the Girdwood Trails Management Plan. Similarly, if the community were to decide later to change this, it would only need to make the change in the Girdwood Trails Management Plan.

Ron Tenny plans to bring this idea to the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club and to the community as a whole for discussion. Currently the concept is a bit unclear, but he will work on mapping and refining the concept.  
Carolyn Brodin states that his concept also needs to include summer use of the area.

Brian Burnett states that he expects that the new multi-use Forest Loop will likely be very popular, and that there will be significant public demand for more trails of this type.

Paul Crews stated that the recent survey also showed significant number of responses from people who like to make their own track in the woods. It is important to plan for that user group when considering the Nordic trail system.

* GNSC Update   
  Ski club meetings are open to the public and are held the 1st MON of the month.  
  Last meeting was on October 2. The next 2 meetings will probably focus on grooming.

Group discussed topic of winter bikes on the Nordic 5K. There are concerns with safety with rutting on the downhills. More discussion in the future about how to manage this safely as grooming is based on weather and snowfall instead of a pre-set schedule.

No update on the Forest Loop trail. Alignment of the trail out of the view of the meadow and Stumpy’s trail results in about 2.5k trail.

GNSC is making progress on bridge replacement behind Our Lady of the Snows. As this is a utility easement and the new bridges will not be removable, the bridges will be placed 10’ to the north of their current location. A bench dedicated to Doug Knudsen, who is a key contributor to the project, will be placed in the area as well. Contractor for the project is Craig Schubert. Specific timing for construction is unknown, but volunteer help will be needed. GNSC to let GTC know date/time to work on the project.

* GMBA Update

No representative from GMBA. Margaret has discussed their application for RTP grant with them recently.  
Will Brennan adds that the Alaska Mountain Bike Summit is this weekend at Kincaid Park.

* Summer Trail Work wrap-up (INHT and California Creek Bridge projects)  
  Kyle is working with the Army Corps of Engineers on permitting for INHT and has meeting scheduled with Fish and Game regarding California Creek Bridge project permitting.

One comment has been received in response to the posting proposing trail work on the INHT. Kyle responded to the concerns stated, and all of this information will be included in the RTP grant application.

No additional comments have been received from that individual or others regarding the trail work.

* Proposed summer trail work party for GTC

Not successful in pulling one off this year, due to weather and permit status for INHT.

* Girdwood Hand tram at Four Corners  
  Plan is to close the hand tram for the season November 1, first snow, or first hard freeze, whichever comes first. Plan is to fly the Hand tram out for powder coating.
* Other Trails Issues

Lynne’ Doran reports that USFS trail work on the Winner Creek Trail is great. Will says they are able to work on the trail a little each fall, replacing step-n-run.   
  
Will Brennan states that the USFS is planning to add signage at the connector trails that join Winner Creek and the Nordic 5K. GNSC may want to add some information regarding trail use, as they have at other locations (direction of ski, user etiquette).

Lynne Doran asks Will Brennan if USFS signage on Crow Pass Trail could be updated to include direction for Raven Glacier as this is a destination for hikers.

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report | | |
| October 3, 2017 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. Cash Account |  | $7,786.72 |
| Reserve for Trail Signs |  | (500.00) |
| Reserve for Forest Fair Fund |  | (80.03) |
| Reserve for Further Trails Publication Costs |  | (7,000.00)\* |
| Balance Unreserved Funds |  | $206.69 |
| KMTA Grant Receivable |  | $7,000.00 |

\*These funds have been expended to pay for Nanette Stevenson’s contracted services.

* Grants Status report:
* Anchorage Park Foundation Grant (lower Iditarod Trail work)  
  $16,417.88 reimbursement remains.   
  Margaret working with APF to provide the documentation needed for reimbursement.
* KMTA Grant ($7,000 matching for Girdwood Trails Plan)  
  Reimbursement requested, payment should be coming soon.
* APF grant for 1 week of SCA work  
  $8250 reimbursement request submitted, payment should be coming soon.
* KMTA grant for California Creek Bridge  
  $5,000 grant. Margaret requested extension as project is pending USACE permitting.
* RTP Grant application for INHT  
  GTC will apply for $50,000 on 90:10 match. Preliminary submission was positive.

Kyle states that there is no RAC grant this year.   
There is perhaps a round of Land and Water Conservation grant cycle for 2018.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article  
  None. Margaret and Kate to work on a winter rec guide article to submit to Turnagain Times.

* October LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative  
  Brian Burnett plans to attend both.

**New Business:**None

**Other Business**

Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor (bike path) “sweeps” were discussed at the October Public Safety Advisory Committee and will be at Land Use next MON. GBOS likely to discuss with DOT engineers again. This is becoming a political issue that may include media and bringing the topic to the DOT Commissioner, Governor, and city and state legislators. Striping to show where the path crosses the intersections have highlighted the poor design. GBOS has just finished successful addition of the pedestrian flashing light at Alyeska Highway and Egloff/Hightower intersection, which was not initially supported by DOT.

Girdwood Trail Marathon is on SAT October 7, $25 registration at the Daylodge. Route will run in the reverse of last year. Volunteers needed for crossing Alyeska Highway near the USFS. Hoping for 35-45 participants.   
  
2017 Climbathon raised $31,000 for the Girdwood Clinic.  
  
Meeting Adjourned 8:25PM