****

**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, September 5, 2017**

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

**Call to Order**

Agenda approved
 August 1, 2017 minutes approved with no changes.

 **Announcements**

None **Introduction of Guests/Presentations** None

**Old Business:**

Interagency Agreements (Kyle Kelley)

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

Girdwood Parks and Rec to start working with SOA Division of Mining and Water to confirm ILMA for this land. SOA wants to turn management of this land over to Girdwood Parks and Rec/GTC.

*Trails Issues:*

* Review of public comments received on the Girdwood Trails Management Plan document

Kate advises that she will not be in town for the LUC meeting on September 11. Margaret to email Brian Burnett and see if he will take over presentation.

At the initial LUC presentation in August, LUC was very supportive of the trails management plan. LUC wants to have elements of trail plan included in the Girdwood Area Plan Update. Group also mentioned that there is need for the plan to explain the process for new trails. This is included in the trail management plan.

At 6PM Public Open House meeting, review of public comments received during comment period were discussed and additional comments were received, specifically:

***Legal Access to trails and dedicated parks***
Assistance from HLB regarding land ownership, such as proper language, to describe legal status of trails. This has caused a change in language from “dedicated trails” to “trails with legal access and dedicated parks. Moose Meadow is a dedicated park, so easements are not required. Other legal access can be obtained by an easement, intra-governmental agreement, inter-government agreement, or permit. Kate recommends that GTC approve language recommended by HLB as it matches federal, state and municipal language.
This change should be made and approved prior to GBOS approval of the plan.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 3, 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>



***Stumpy’s Summer Trail:***Carolyn Brodin wrote a trail description to be added to the plan, however, there is disagreement about the text. Group agrees discuss this trail description at the October GTC meeting when Carolyn Brodin is present and language can be agreed on.
This should be discussed at GTC and added to the trail management plan in the future. For now, the plan draft can go forward without the trail description.

***Winner Creek Extension Trail:***Trail description is still pending. Brian Burnett was to write this.
The plan draft can go forward without the trail description.

***Various small edits regarding punctuation, spelling, etc have been noted.***

**Public Open House recommendations for the plan content:
*Signage:***Recommendation that signage be added to each trail description, below the trail start and trail end. This will act as an inventory of signs needed.

Trial signage can be different for different types of trails: highly used trails are more signed than less used trails. Will Brennan to provide language from the USFS that GTC can consider adopting in to the Girdwood Trails Management plan.
The plan draft can go forward without the signage specified, it will be added in the revisions.

***Trail History:***Recommendation that significance of trails should be described in the trail plan. Reason for names, for example the Danich Trail, Stumpy’s Trails, Abe’s, Wagon Trail. Explanation of the name and/or purpose of original trail, etc will add context to readers and trail users.
This item can be addressed in future versions of the Girdwood Trails Management plan.

***Mapping***Following descriptions on page 17-18 of 5 management areas: Alyeska Highway Corridor, Resort Owned Trails, Upper Valley Trails, Alyeska Basin and South Valley Trails, and Back Country, there is a map on page 19. This map over-draws the extent of Resort Owned Trails and should be re-drawn.
This map to be updated show the resort boundary accurately prior to presenting this plan draft to GBOS.

***Climate Change***
Recommendation that a segment on changing trail management based on climate change should be included in a future version of the plan.

Correct snow cat trail to remove it from summer use and to clarify motorized users include grooming equipment.

Clarification on-going regarding Great Land Trust easement status of the Virgin Creek trail.

**GTC additions:**Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance will submit additional text to be considered for future addition to the Girdwood Trails Management Plan.

Motion:
Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve the Girdwood Trails Management Plan draft with changes to clarify legal status of trails as presented, to be updated and presented to LUC and GBOS at their September Regular Meetings.
Motion by Mike Edgington, 2nd by Diana Livingston
Motion carries 9-0 with 2 abstaining

Motion:
Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve minor changes to the Trails Management Plan Draft, such as correcting spelling and punctuation errors, fixing errors to the Snow Cat Trail description and summer use, and updating mapping on page 19, as presented.
Motion by Diana Livingston, 2nd by Deb Essex
Motion carries 9-0 with 2 abstaining

* Consider creating backcountry xc ski area with no grooming in area previously discussed as Phase 2 of the GNSC conceptual plan (Ron Tenny).

Ron Tenny is not in town to present. He will update the group in October on his findings through the Heritage Land Bank.

* GNSC Update

Gate at the mouth of the trail has been repaired and locked. Kyle Kelley, Girdwood Fire Dept and GNSC have the combo. GNSC repaired trail damage with gravel.

Trail will be used for a Girdwood Middle School cross country running meet on September 6.

* GMBA Update

Successful fundraiser held in the end of July.

GMBA working on conditional easement with HLB. Currently working on alignment and will flag it soon.

GMBA will need to have their own 501(c)3 and will likely need to have 100% of funding secured before starting work on the trails. Current estimated budget is $80,000. Group will apply for RTP grant.

 GMBA requests a letter of support from GTC to submit with their grant application.

* Summer Trail Work wrap-up (INHT and California Creek Bridge projects)

Beaver Pond Trail work concluded.

Projects on the INHT and the California Creek Bridge project are pending as we wait for Army Corp permitting.

* Proposed summer trail work party for GTC.

Tabled for now. Perhaps brushing in the fall. Projects on INHT are not possible until permitting is complete.

* Girdwood Hand tram at Four Corners
New rope needs to be tightened – probably take care of this later this week or next week.
* Other Trails Issues
* Financial Report (Diana Livingston). No change from last month. Diana was hoping to see reimbursement from grants. Margaret explains that other than Beaver Pond Trail, no projects have been concluded yet.

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| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $11,286.72 |
| 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 |  | $7,206.69 |
| KMTA Grant Receivable |  | $7,000.00  |

* Grants Status report:
* Anchorage Park Foundation Grant (lower Iditarod Trail work): pending Corps permitting
* KMTA Grant ($7,000 matching for Girdwood Trails Plan) – Close out after plan is adopted.
* APF grant for 1 week of SCA work on Beaver Pond Trail – Ready to close out.
* KMTA grant for California Creek Bridge – Pending corps permitting
* RTP grant application due October 15. Local resident has raised objection to trail work.

We will be very cautious in moving forward.

*Updates*

* Newspaper Article

No submission at this time.

* September LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative
Margaret will check with Brian about representing GTC at LUC.

Kate will attend GBOS to present the Girdwood Trails Management Plan

**New Business:**

None

**Other Business**

GNSC will be working on the bridges behind Our Lady of the Snows Church soon. Engineering completed by Josh Zellmer. Airport supports project as trail leads public away from the airport land. GNSC has 2 leftover glue-lams that could be used for projects.

Draft text for GBOS Resolutions of support to be used in the RTP grant application and for the Girdwood Trails Management Plan. Please provide your comments and suggestions to Margaret via email: tylerms@muni.org. Draft text will be provided to Kate Sandberg and Eryn Boone.

Gerrish Branch (Girdwood) Library has been proposed to be closed in the 2018 Municipal Budget. This is in response to the request of all departments to propose 10% budget cut, which is $800,000 for the Anchorage Public Library. Cause of budget issue is revenue shortfall of $15-25M due to elimination of state revenue sharing and no rebate from ML&P.

Savings from closing Girdwood Library is about $375,000, the remainder would be made up with shorter hours of other libraries. Gerrish Library was selected because it has the highest cost per check-out. Friends of the Library (Anchorage Public Library support) and the Girdwood Library Boosters are seeking letters of support, comment cards, etc supporting the Girdwood library. They propose no cuts to the library system as it has been cut in budgets previously.

Send support letters to: girdwoodlibraryboosters@gmail.com; PO Box 1102 Girdwood, AK 99587, or complete a comment card at the library lobby.