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**Minutes**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, April 3, 2018**

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

**Call to Order**

April 3, 2018 Agenda approved

March 6, 2018 revised Minutes approved  
  
**Announcements**

MOA/GBOS Quarterly meeting will be held MON April 23 at 4PM in the Girdwood Community Room.

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

Large number of residents are in attendance. 46 people signed in. Room is set in more formal meeting style than usual to accommodate larger numbers and better presentation format.

Bill Spencer, trail designer for HDR and avid trail user attending also.

**Old Business:**

* GNSC trail alignment review and consideration for approval

Discussion begins with the motion that was on the floor and tabled at the GTC meeting in March:  
Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve the proposed trail alignment with the centerline as presented by Girdwood Nordic Ski Club.

Motion by Justin Thomas, 2nd by Jim Braham  
  
Amendment to the motion:  
This approval is contingent upon an agreement with GNSC to create an appointed subcommittee of GTC and GNSC members. The subcommittee is charged with making a preliminary plan for the design and construction of the trail. The group will present this plan to the GTC as new business no later than the August GTC meeting.

Amendment by Kate Sandberg, 2nd by Barb Crews  
  
Purpose of amendment is to meet the expectation of the GBOS at their Special Meeting to clarify Resolution 2017-08. Eryn Boone provides a recap of that meeting: Paragraph #6 was re-written, and the GBOS noted that the GTC was seeking a method of input and assurance that their concerns regarding trail alignment, design and construction would be addressed by GNSC. GBOS noted that the process of discussing this trail has been long and has had good public participation. GTC has stated their discomfort with approval of the centerline without additional information on design and construction style. Mike Edgington states that GBOS expects for the following

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 in the Girdwood Community Room at 7:00 pm**

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to result from the clarification of 2017-08: Subcommittee to work on the trail design and construction and resulting additional preliminary plan to be discussed by GTC and presented to GBOS not later than the September GBOS meeting.

Julie Jonas speaks in favor of adding the sub-committee to the motion:  
GBOS are the final decision makers, they need a unified recommendation from GNSC/GTC that involves method for ongoing input. This is public land and the public has the right to participate to create a trail that works for the community. Subcommittee was discussed at the March GTC meeting, but has not been formalized yet. Julie offers to serve on this committee. She supports the trail concept and wants to work together to create a trail for the community.

Bill Spencer, HDR trail designer, addresses the group. He begins with an explanation that all trail types have trail classes. This multi-use trail through the forest has been approved by GTC at the June 2017 meeting as: 14’ maximum clearing width and 10’ wide trail. With tall, overlapping trees that shade the forest floor from sunlight and snow, tree removal will be needed to allow snow to fall on the forest floor. More needs to be learned about the soils in the area. It is expected that it is mostly gravel under the root mat, however if some sections are mucky, there will need to be re-routing of the trail alignment. If a lot of the area is mucky, the trail concept will likely be abandoned.

Paul Crews, an experienced road and trail builder, states that he thinks the area is well suited for the trail, and that with proper techniques based on the characteristics of the forest and the need to source gravel, this can be done effectively with relatively small equipment by a good contractor. He describes a technique known as “flip-flop”, where gravel is sourced and the organics from other areas of construction are used to fill in the source hole, and the trail built over the top. He stresses the importance of having the right contractor to do a clean job.

Bill Spencer reviews the current map of the trail alignment with the group, and states that currently it is a fairly serpentine trail, using the kettle areas as trail terrain. This creates a lot of trail within a small area, and suggests that this may not be what the community wants. Trail can be re-drawn to straighten these curves.

Deb Essex states that she supports a less compact trail with fewer curves, preserving a wooded experience. The 14’ clearing is needed in order for grooming equipment to get through. This width is based on the grooming, not the type of skiing or skill or skiers. Bill Spencer states that the construction itself depends on the contractor and funding sources. Deb Essex can’t guarantee how the construction will be done because she doesn’t have her funding sources yet, and there are different rules for trail construction from different sources.

Group seeks clarification:

* What they are voting on, considering that the centerline that has been presented is now likely to change?
* What is the plan with Phase 2, which was mentioned in an email and social media post by GNSC?   
  At the June, 2017 meeting, the 2nd phase of trail was removed from consideration by GNSC as it was not accepted by GTC in concept. At the June 2017 meeting, GNSC stated that they have no interest in developing the trail that has previously been discussed as Phase 2.

Barb Crews states that she supports the sub-committee being created. 5-7 people total serving, and removing micromanagement of the trail design and construction from the GTC.   
  
Group discusses the makeup of the Sub-committee: 3 people selected from GNSC, 3 from GTC . Sub-committee to be selected by chairs of GTC and GNSC, Carolyn Brodin and Deb Essex.

Motion amendment:

Approval of the motion is contingent upon an agreement with GNSC to create an appointed subcommittee of GTC and GNSC members. The subcommittee is charged with making a preliminary plan for the alignment, design and construction of the trail. The group will present this plan to the GTC as new business no later than the August GTC meeting.

Amendment by Kate Sandberg, 2nd by Barb Crews

27 in favor, 0 opposed, 8 abstentions  
Motion carries

Revised Motion with amendment:  
Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve the proposed approximate alignment as presented by the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club. Approval of the motion is contingent upon an agreement with GNSC to create an appointed subcommittee of GTC and GNSC members. The subcommittee is charged with making a preliminary plan for the alignment, design and construction of the trail. The group will present this plan to the GTC as new business no later than the August GTC meeting.

Motion by Mike Edgington, 2nd by Eryn Boone

29 in favor, 5 opposed, 3 abstentions  
Motion carries

Comments received prior to vote:

Written comments from absent members of GTC:

Steve Halverson regarding his concerns with not seeing the trail alignment in all four seasons and desire to have HLB report regarding complaint about the GNSC’s Nordic 5K competed before authorizing them to complete another trail construction project.

Jody Jenkins regarding her status as a member of the GTC and the GNSC. Lack of information and solicitation of input by GNSC from their members on this proposed trail. She desires a smaller footprint of the trail and to retain the woodsy atmosphere, not the wide open trail that GNSC has proposed.

Comments from those attending:

Brian Burnett: Girdwood should be the trail hub of Alaska. An interconnected multi-use loop is described in the Girdwood Trails Management Plan and this trail is a part of achieving that goal.

Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian: Concerned that he wilderness quality that trail users are seeking will be lost with this width and trail type. Concerned that use of kettles and other features of the topography should be avoided. He expresses distrust of GNSC to build a trail that takes these concerns in to consideration.

Kathy Holmes: Enjoys all trails, the community needs more trails and better access to stay healthy physically and mentally.

Lin Hinderman: concern that the trail is being described for skate skiing. The designed use is for classic ski trail; width is determined by the width of grooming equipment.

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian re-states her concern about the return of Phase 2 in the discussion. She seeks a response from GNSC regarding this. No response from GNSC. Julie also pointed out that no real, professional survey of trail users in the valley has been completed, so it is unclear what the community actually wants.

Ron Tenny states that he has proposed that GTC preserve Phase 2 as a back-country ski area with no grooming or set trail.   
  
Shirley Durtschi states that there is a lack of respect, honor and trust in the relationship between GTC and GNSC, and the trail proposed is creating a schism in the community.

Motion:  
Girdwood Trails Committee moves that a sub-committee comprised of 3 volunteer members from GNSC shall be appointed by Deb Essex and 3 volunteer members from GTC shall be appointed by Carolyn Brodin. Sub-committee will be chaired by Eryn Boone and will form to collaborate on the approximate trail alignment, design and construction within one week.

Motion by Barb Crews, 2nd by Brian Burnett  
25 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstentions  
Motion carries

Deb Essex states that her appointments from the GNSC group will take place via email as she is heading out of state for a month.

*Trails Issues:*

* Interagency Land Management Agreement (ILMA) for California Creek Trailhead & Beaver Pond/Abe’s Trailhead  
  This project is complete, GTC has a 5 year ILMA which expires in 2022.
* Upcoming Trails Projects:

Lower INHT Update:   
Completing permitting with flood hazard permit with MOA. Fish and Game will permit the bridge, and HLB will issue a land use permit.

Kyle has met with Andy Hehnlin and completed a pre-construction meeting. Survey will be completed shortly, and with permitting in place, the plan is to have an SCA crew work on the trial with Andy for 3 weeks this summer.

Kyle shows design plans for the new bridge over California Creek on this trail. Bridge design meets USFS specs: pile driven, glulam and wood construction. As planned, the bridge is low enough not to require a handrail, however the plan can be adjusted to add hand rails if needed. Bridge will be ADA compliant, with ramps to access the deck. Bridge will likely not be built this summer as additional funding must be secured.

Hand Tram:  
Plan to take the tram cart to Anchorage this week. It will be stripped and repainted at Alaska Industrial Paint and welds will be checked at Alaska Industrial Xray. New paint will be a product that we can maintain in the field in the future.

Work projects:  
Girdwood staff will compile a list of work projects in May to be completed by GTC, including tree clearing, brushing, trail maintenance.

* Winter Grooming   
  Grooming is on-going! More snow in the forecast in the next 24 hours with 4-8” accumulation forecasted.
* Other Trails Issues

Trail access from Airport property – no report

Trail maps – tabled for a future discussion

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report | | |
| April 3, 2018 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $23,036.72 |
| Cash Account Last Report |  |  |
| 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 |  | $15,456.69 |
| No Change From Last Month's Report | |  |

* Grants Status report:
* RTP Grant/KMTA Grant/APF grant  
  APF grant must be used this year.  
  RTP grant pending final notification. This should be received within the next 30 days.
* Future grant project ideas: tabled

*Updates*

* Girdwood Trails Management Plan:  
  Kate updates that the plan changes were sent to the graphic designer and the updated document has been received. She and Barb Crews are reviewing. Once it’s complete, it will be updated on the website and GTC can work on getting a new sub-committee together to discuss revisions for next year.
* GNSC:  
  No additional report
* GMBA:

No additional report

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor Sweeps:  
  Mike Edgington updates that GBOS sent letter to Governor, DOT Commissioner, Mayor, Assembly and State Legislators.   
  We have received some responses. No formal response from Governor or DOT
* Newspaper:  
  Summer trail construction could be pitched for a summer article.
* April LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives: Kate Sandberg and Carolyn Brodin will split these responsibilities.

**New Business:**

* Review GTC Operating Procedures

Operating procedures with executive committee and GBOS secretary’s recommendations are presented. Other changes should be brought to the GTC meeting in May to discuss.

**Other Business**Dwaine Schuldt passed away in February. Dwaine was a long-time GTC member and former chair of GTC. His family has asked for contributions in his memory to be made to GTC. His family has discussed placing a memorial bench.

Meeting adjourned 9:35PM