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**Minutes**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, August 14, 2018**

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

**Call to Order**

August 14, 2018 Agenda approved DL/NG

May 1, 2018 Minutes approved DL/NG

 **Announcements**

* Memorial for Dwaine Schuldt August 25 from 5-7PM at the Girdwood Community Room

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

Introductions around the room.

HLB Advisory Commission will hold their September 12 meeting in Girdwood. Girdwood Trails Committee will give a short presentation on recent projects. HLB is requesting information on what would be the priority trail to work on getting easement for. Group discusses that Phase III of Iditarod NHT does not have easement. Also Virgin Creek Falls trail needs one.

Girdwood Area Plan Update Committee will also present an update to the HLBAC.

**Old Business:**

*Trails Issues:*

* Upcoming Trails Projects:

Summer Trail Work projects list – summer projects are mostly complete and will be discussed later in the agenda.

* Hand Tram Update

June GTC meeting was a work party at the tram. Group collected trash, cleaned up both terminals, did some ditching and drainage work, and did some paint repair on the terminals.

Girdwood staff are conducting inspections bi-weekly. Tram is getting heavy use, many are riding across and getting back in line to come back over.

Thank you Brian and Garrett for tightening the cable line. It is running much more smoothly.

* Other Trails Issues

Trail access from Airport property – no update

Trail maps – Kyle is investigating use of professional level Gaia app to get better mapping of the trails.
Perhaps they could be used to create maps to be installed at trailheads. At first this will be a staff project.

Committee expresses interest in helping with this project.

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston/Kyle Kelley)

With cycle of paying for trail work and waiting for reimbursement from our grants, encumbered funds appear to be greater than the account balance. As the bills are paid in full and reimbursed at 90%, this will be resolved.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 in the Girdwood Community Room at 7:00 pm**

Girdwood Trails Committee Agendas and minutes are available on line: <http://www.muni.org/gbos>



* Grants Status report:
* RTP Grant status – Project is complete and bills are being paid and reimbursement received.

Currently $13,000 has been received in reimbursements. Next reimbursement will be for $26,000.

Anchorage Park Foundation Grant for the Lower INHT has been closed out and reimbursed.

Close to closing out the KMTA grant for engineering and design of the bridge over California Creek.

* Future grant project ideas (signage at Crow Creek road trailheads, tram maintenance)

Margaret and Kyle will submit a grant application this week for KMTA for the construction of the California Creek Bridge.

Working on a partnership with KMTA on the Hand Tram. This is a longer range project

*Updates*

* Lower Iditarod Trail Update

Kyle provides a presentation regarding the work on the Lower Iditarod NHT. Work began in early June and was completed by Andy Hehnlin and our SCA contracted crew over the course of 3 weeks. Group used the alignment and specifications provided by the USFS. Work also included revegetation of the old trail alignment.

Plan is to apply for Phase II, to bring the trail from across California Creek to the Industrial Park. This will be less gravel/drainage work, but will bring the trail up to USFS 6’ wide trail specifications. As discussed, we are seeking grant funding from KMTA for the bridge replacement.

* Girdwood Trails Management Plan 2019 update

Barb Crews is the chair of this sub-committee. Main focus of the update in 2019 is to create a flow chart of the new trail approval process. Group met at 6PM tonight and their next meeting is October 2, just prior to regular GTC meeting. They plan to share the flow chart with GTC and seek approval for that portion of the project before writing the narrative to accompany it.

* GNSC

Board meeting was August 6. Group is completing the bridge work behind the Our Lady of the Snows Church, and will have a date for dedication of the bench and new alignment soon.

Other maintenance to prepare for winter is ongoing.

* GMBA

Volunteers from GMBA and Powderhound worked on the Beaver Pond Trail a few weeks ago to brush it out and make it rideable.
Began trail construction of the new trails last week, starting with the one at the lowest part of the Nordic 5K. They’re having success with the flip-flop method, gravel is under the forest mat. Rain has stopped construction temporarily.

* August LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative: LUC was last night; GBOS is next Monday. Either Kate or Carolyn will attend.

**New Business:**

* Multi Use Trail recommendation from sub-committee

Eryn Boone, Chair of the subcommittee, presented the Multi-Use Trail Subcommittee Recommendation, with background and history of how the subcommittee operated and parameters of their scope.

Proposal is on line and copies are available at the back of the room. Recommended alignment provided on a map overlaid with the most recent proposal provided by Bill Spencer. Subcommittee believes that this alignment minimizes the impact of this trail on users of Stumpy’s Trail, avoids being within its own view shed by removing some of the earlier proposed loopy sections and avoids use of the kettles and swales.

Sourcing of gravel is a continuing concern, however knowing the extent of this issue is not known until more is known about what is under the root mat. Test holes are not definitive, some of this will need to be considered on-site. Preferred style is flip flop (sourcing gravel from under the trail bed itself). Sourcing gravel outside of the valley is not recommended as it introduces invasive weeds, additional costs, and access issues.

Primary access of the trail is also a continuing concern, with different interpretations of the “dual access” from the church and from the Arlberg Parking Lot. Catholic Church has an “air lease” on their land, and are not the land manager/land owner. Land owner is Alyeska Resort.

Open Meetings Act compliance was an issue brought forward partway through the committee work. Group learned that OMA is more stringent for committees than for elected bodies, and have complied upon realizing the rules.

Comments:
Group discusses if the new recommended alignment has been walked by committee members.

Paul Crews and Ron Tenny state that they have had lots of time in the woods, but no one has marked or walked this specific alignment. Intent of the committee is to mitigate conflict between the trails at known pinch points, which have been previously established. Group discusses that the want to view the trail alignment in different seasons to ensure that Stumpy’s trail isn’t impacted.

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian expresses concern that vague statements in the specifications can be read to provide flexibility to go beyond the 14’ max clearing, and this and other vague statements need to be tightened up.

Group discusses that this is among the items that need to be assessed on site, as the extent of the need for gravel sourcing and the best solution are variables that are not known and may be different in different locations. Julie Raymond-Yakoubian states that as it is unlikely that LUC and GBOS will make changes to the recommendations that come from GTC, it is critical that this is worded clearly.

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian also states that violations of the Open Meetings Act continued throughout the committee’s work, including completing this report outside of the last meeting and was not shared. She and Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian express that project details were shared via email and those emails have only been turned over to them earlier today. Julie Raymond-Yakoubian states that her issue with OMA non-compliance is not related to concern that the group is hiding information or has ill-will, but that the proper process has not been followed. She has provided many comments intended to provide input to improve the trail.

Julie Jonas, secretary for the subcommittee, states that it was determined that the intent of the language was set in the meeting on FRI night the 10th of August. With approval from the committee she wrote the actual text over the weekend to provide at this meeting.

Jerry Fox thanks the sub-committee for their hard work.

Group discusses how to proceed in receiving comments and amendments.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to have public make comments and provide amendments to the draft Subcommittee recommendations of the Forest Loop Trail to be received by FRI August 24 at 5PM to tylerms@muni.org.

Motion by Kate Sandberg, 2nd by Diana Livingston

17 in favor, 0 opposed, 7 abstaining

Motion carries

The report and back-up information are available on line at [www.muni.or/gbos](http://www.muni.or/gbos) under Trails Items of Interest. As approved in the motion, public is asked to read and consider the recommendations, and provide comments and amendments to it by August 24 at 5PM. These will be compiled, emailed to GTC members, and posted on the website. It will be discussed at the September 4 GTC meeting. There will be no other business on the agenda for that meeting.

**Other Business**

**Adjourn 9PM**