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**Minutes**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

**Call to Order** 7PM Carolyn Brodin

February 6, 2018 Agenda approved
 January 2, 2018 Minutes approved

 **Announcements**

None

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

Jason Stancil, new PIO for USFS Glacier Ranger District

**Old Business:**

* Girdwood Trails Management Plan Revisions Review
Reviewed changes for Plan, agreed on changes, will work via email over the next month and have update to present to the GTC in March. Email Kate to receive a copy of the proposed changes: kesandberg@gmail.com
* GTC approval to spend $5,000 on engineering and design of bridge for INHT California Creek Crossing.

Met with Josh Zellmer, who just engineered the 2 bridges behind the church. Similar design as those bridges, and design meets with USACE permitting for the bridge. Requesting $5,000 for engineering and will receive construction estimate. Likely request more funds from KMTA in upcoming grant cycle.

Flood Hazard Permit is pending for engineering study. This design will meet requirements of USFS for Iditarod trail. USFS will review the engineering and design at 50% design phase.

Motion:
GTC moves to approve $5,000 for Josh Zellmer to do engineering, design, and provide construction estimate for the replacement of the INHT California Creek bridge.

Motion by Kate Sandberg, 2nd by

15 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention

Motion carries

*Trails Issues:*

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

Currently under legal review with the MOA. This will require City Manager signature.

* Upcoming Trails Projects:

Lower INHT trail work update – Kyle provides presentation. $50,000 grant tentatively awarded for work

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 6, 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>



on INHT. GTC has been working on this project since 1997, when Iditarod Trail Route Study was approved.

Goal is to improve the trail to specs of the USFS. Plan is to build up the trail tread, replace the bridge, gravel top, fix drainage, move trail away from California Creek banks.

Phase 1 in Summer 2018 goal is work from the Trailhead on the South end of the trail, replace the bridge, and end at the Industrial Park. It will be a challenge in getting material to the site. On the other side of the bridge, material can come in from the Industrial Park. Segment to the Railroad will not be worked on (see phase 3). Current trailhead is off Alyeska Highway.

Later on, Phase 2 will go from Industrial Park to the school. Phase 3 is the hardest phase, connecting the trail under the Alyeska Highway bridge along the tracks to depot area. There have been preliminary meetings with the Railroad.

Alison Rein produced trail parameters, clearing work has been started. Once smoothed, we’d add trail fabric, pit run, gravel course on top, creating 6’ wide trail with 3:1 slope. Trail will be out of the swamp with culverts for drainage. Clearing limit of 12’. This is pretty similar in design as Trail of Blue Ice in Portage. Group discusses the “progressively primitive” trail concept, this section will be more developed through town and then will be less developed as the trail moves up the valley.

Several grants are tied to this project, equaling about $72,000: KMTA for California Creek Bridge, Anchorage Park Foundation, Recreation Trails Program grant.

Partnership with USFS has been key in getting through the planning and permitting process, Andy Hehnlin will be the contractor, and most of the labor will come from SCA. Pending are flood hazard permit, fish habitat permit for bridge, get SCA crew on board for summer.

Hand Tram will be going to town in March for powder coat and any welds that may need to be fixed.

Work projects (tree clearing, brushing): Trees down on the Iditarod, need to organize a work project to go out to clear in the next week. Contact Parks and Rec to participate.

* Winter Grooming

Grooming has started, track has been set. Trail packed in upper meadows by Tim Charnon, need more snow to groom those. Plan is to pack Moose Meadows in the next week or so. Kyle says 18” needed before implements used. 8”-10” ok for packing the trail to set up for grooming.

* Other Trails Issues

Airport access: Group has noticed that the contractor has started hauling again. Plans are for access the hangar along the back side of the building, and a road with hammerhead turnaround is also to be built along that side, so there is more dirt to move.

Use of this property to access trails has been historic but there is no requirement of access to trails from that area. GTC should keep creation of access to upper valley trails from this side of Glacier Creek as a priority.

Pedestrians and bicyclists on the taxiway and runway are hazardous and this is an on-going issue at the airport. State aviation could restrict access.

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report |
| February 6, 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: already discussed
* RTP Grant:
* Future grant project ideas (KMTA signage)

*Updates*

* GNSC

Map with Bill Spenser’s recommended route with centerline is presented. The trail is now flagged and group is encouraged to hike the trail. Group discusses the parameters that were agreed upon for the trail building by the Trails Committee and as reflected in the GBOS Resolution 2017-08:
1) New Arlberg parking lot and Our Lady of the Snows are dual access options to the trail.
2) Trail is maximum 10' wide, hardened surface, with targeted maximum width of 14' clearing.
3) Design minimized visual impact on existing trails
4) Design minimized environmental impacts
5) Girdwood Trails Committee has ongoing input on trail design and construction, with specific review and approval once the center line is set.

Jim Braham offers to walk the trail with GTC Members, time and date tba.

GTC to consider voting on the trail as presented at their March 6 GTC Meeting.

* GMBA

Fundraising on-going.

Tentatively awarded RTP grant.

Conditional easement from HLB is pending

Working toward 501(c)3 IRS designation

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor Sweeps
GBOS still working on this with DOT.
* Newspaper Article

Structure has changed as Glacier City Gazette has paid writers and don’t solicit articles as Turnagain Times did. GTC can pitch stories and can provide letters to the editor.

* February LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Carolyn will attend.

**New Business:**

* Alaska Trails Conference April 26-28, 2018 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage

Kyle Kelley requests that GTC sponsor attendance at this event, along with other member could also be sponsored.

**Other Business**

Brian Burnett says that at Alaska Trails meeting, Gov. Knowles discussed Alaska Long Trails group to create destination trails in Alaska, similar to PCT and Appalachian Trail.

Valdez to Prudhoe
Cordova trail from McCarthy to Cordova

Alaska Southern Trek (Anchorage to Seward)

**Adjourn: 8:20PM**