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**Minutes**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

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

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

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

March 6, 2018 Agenda Approved
 February 6, 2018 minutes approved with change

**Announcements**

PSAC will host Active Shooter Awareness Training with FBI and APD on TUE March 20 and a Stop the Bleed Class on TUE March 27. Both are 7PM in the Girdwood Community Room.

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

Roundtable introductions as there are some people new to GTC in the room. All are encouraged to sign in so that they will be eligible to vote.

**Old Business:**

* Girdwood Trails Management Plan Revisions Review and consideration of approval

List of updates to the Trails Management Plan was established by GTC last fall and volunteers worked on the project list during the fall, with group discussion in February. Proposed changes were presented via email to all on the GTC email list. This is a living document, and changes are expected. There will be more substantive changes to address in the next revision cycle. More photos and ideas of where to place them are welcome. Julie Raymond-Yacoubian requests that the next revision cycle start soon and to be included in the committee that is working on them.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve the changes to Draft 8 of the Girdwood Trails Management Plan as presented.
Motion by Barb Crews, 2nd by Ron Tenny
18 in favor/0 opposed/5 abstentions

Motion carries.

* GNSC trail alignment review and consideration for approval

Map of proposed alignment was presented at the February GTC meeting. For some time after that the trail route was somewhat difficult to discern, as flagging was covered by snow and some flagging had been removed.

Paul Crews states that most of the community has not been able to view the trail. Signage was added recently to make it easier for public to check out the trail alignment and be informed before voting.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 3, 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>



Group discusses the process to be used in GTC providing final approval of the trail alignment, and whether item #5 of the June, 2017 GTC motion approving the concept of the Forest Loop Trail has been met, ie: Girdwood Trails Committee has ongoing input on trail design and construction, with specific review and approval once the center line is set.

Paul Crews has experience in trail building, and relates that there are several stages to creating trail design that goes to the contractor for construction:
Establishing the centerline and trail profile – current phase
Creating a cross section – basically the shape of the trail
Creating construction specs that detail the materials and method of construction

He states that approving the centerline at this time still leaves opportunity for significant input in the following two phases, and that a collaborative process that establishes goals and a timeline should be set up with GTC and GNSC.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve the proposed trail alignment with the centerline as presented by GNSC.

Motion by Justin Thomas/2nd by Jim Braham
Motion tabled after discussion

Discussion of motion:

Paul Crews has spent significant time on the trail and produced a report on it. Essentially, there are 3 locations he has determined that are too close to Stumpy’s Summer Trail. He has concerns about the trail route of the northeast corner trail segment, where the proposed trail is on the south side of the Perpetual Meadow Ridge. His concern about this section has to do with terrain and drainage not being conducive to good trail construction. Paul Crews notes that this trail project has come a long way with cooperation and compromises among the two groups. Paul suggests an amended motion that discusses a timeline that includes trail inspection in March, changes to proposed alignment based on input, and a vote on the item in April.

Steve Halverson stated that as the trail is to be year-round use, voting on this should come after people have been able to view the alignment after the snow has melted, and perhaps this vote should take place in June.

Confusion about the status of approval for the trail. GTC members are unsure of how their input will be incorporated in the trail alignment. In addition, there are changes that will occur during the construction process. Jerry Fox states that the process has changed since the last major trail construction process. Process is for community consensus on the trail as provided through GTC, approval from GBOS, Assembly hearing and Assembly vote, and then fundraising and construction. Easement would be granted after trail construction is concluded.

Group discusses delaying the vote for 1 month to allow public to walk the trail, which is now easy to find. People can contact Jim Braham and/or Paul Crews if they need help finding the trail.

Chair Carolyn Brodin agrees to 5 minute break, after which Justin Thomas requests that his motion be tabled until the April 2, 2018 GTC meeting. Jim Braham states that the GTC vote will be a yes or no vote on the alignment as presented. Deb Essex states that GTC can send GNSC suggestions for the alignment to GNSC after approval.

Group discusses forming a working group with members from GNSC and GTC to collaborate on trail alignment to meet the intent of the June 2017 GTC motion item #5, which states: GTC has ongoing input on trail design and construction, with specific review and approval once the center line is set. The working group is to set specific goals and timeline. The mechanism and result of public and working group input on the trail alignment remains unclear. No chair has been selected yet.

People who want to participate on the working group are to email Margaret: tylerms@muni.org, who will forward the names of volunteers on to Carolyn Brodin and Deb Essex. Group discussed that there are some qualified trail builders in the membership of GTC who would be able to provide valuable input in alignment discussion as well as individuals with other skills that will be useful in this effort. Deb Essex states that timing of getting together is uncertain as GNSC is occupied with Ski Meister and other projects during the spring skiing season.

* Alaska Trails Conference April 26-28, 2018, Conference fee $175 members/$225 non-members
Membership $100 for Trail Organization

Kyle Kelley and Eryn Boone have expressed interest in attending ATC Conference in April. Eryn is unable to attend both days. Barb Crews is also interested in attending part or all of the conference and may split conference with Eryn. Margaret Tyler mentions that if others are interested in attending, they could seek scholarship from KMTA ([www.kmtacorridor.org](http://www.kmtacorridor.org))

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve sponsoring conference fee for 2 people to attend the Alaska Trails Conference @ $175 each and the membership fee of $100.00.

Motion by Kate Sandberg/2nd by Julie Jonas
17 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention
Motion carries

*Trails Issues:*

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

ILMA complete

* Upcoming Trails Projects:

Lower INHT Update/Hand Tram/Work projects (tree clearing, brushing)

INHT engineering work complete for new bridge over California Creek. Design matches USFS requirements. Construction estimate for the bridge is pending. KMTA amended grant secured for the bridge engineering work and future grant will be sought for construction.

Hand Tram will go to town this spring for paint and to check welds.

Work projects: tree clearing on Iditarod Trail behind the school. Jerry Fox, Mark Jonas, Julie Jonas, Kate Sandberg, Nick Georgelos and Doug Penn offer to help with removing trees. Margaret and Kyle to follow up with them to set up a date/time.

* Winter Grooming

Winter grooming has begun on Moose Meadows. Grooming has been on-going on Nordic 5 K for some time.

* Other Trails Issues

Eileen Halverson mentions the illegal work on Abe’s Trail and asks if GMBA will communicate that trail work needs to be authorized by land manager.

Winter trail brushing. Beaver Pond Trail winter route needs to be brushed.
Barb Crews seeks approval to remove tree trunk that is impeding access from Perpetual Meadow to Secret Meadow.

Trail access from Airport property. Carolyn Brodin talked to someone who has worked for the FAA. They advised that it may be a good idea to follow up regarding access to upper valley trails through airport land.

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report |
| March 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:
* RTP Grant – no change
* KMTA Grant – as discussed earlier, amended application from fall to cover design/engineering work on the California Creek Bridge
* APF grant – no change.
* Future grant project ideas: Maybe signage for the trails that are accessed from Crow Creek Rd. trailhead now that GTC has ILMA for that parcel.

*Updates*

* GNSC: Already addressed
* GMBA: Working on fundraising. GMBA is on Assembly agenda this month and if all goes well, will be

approved at the Assembly meeting in April. GMBA states that their process has been more streamlined than the process for GNSC new trail, likely due to the location of the GMBA proposed trails.

Process is: GTC support, LUC support, GBOS Support, Assembly support and then work with HLB. After construction and official survey, the easement gets granted. GMBA will not be back to GTC for further trail approval of these trails.

* Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor Sweeps

Mike Edgington and Sam Daniel completed letter regarding the sweeps. It’s in final review by Mike and should be sent out soon. Jerry Fox mentions that Cooper Landing has similar glaciation problems with their new path.

* Newspaper Article - eventually pitch a story idea regarding the trail construction, but it is too soon as the

RTP grants are still only tentatively approved.

* March LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative – Barb Crews to attend LUC on 3/12; Carolyn Brodin will be at

GBOS on 3/19.

**New Business:**

None

**Other Business**

None

Meeting adjourned 9:11PM