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**Minutes**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, May 1, 2018**

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

**Call to Order**

Approval of May 1, 2018 Agenda with change BC/DL

Approval of April 3, 2018 Minutes with changes JT/KS
 **Announcements**

DNR proposed materials site at MP 87 – Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian
DNR has two proposals regarding Kern Creek material site at approximately MP 87 on the Seward Highway. Comments are currently being accepted on the proposals of 14 acre site and possible 51 acre site. Comment period ends May 9, although Brenden has requested 15 day extension as this has not been discussed at LUC or GBOS yet. Amount of land and purpose of materials acquisition from this site is unclear. Only those who make comments in this comment period will be able to make future comments on future proposals. Information from the State of AK Dept of Natural Resources is available on line at the links below:
<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=189493>
<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=111833>

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

Tommy O’Malley, Girdwood Forest Fair. Tommy states that the Girdwood Forest Fair Committee plans to place a sign naming the Girdwood Campground after Dwaine Schuldt, who founded and improved the campground over the years and volunteered to manage the campground during Forest Fair for many years. Forest Fair Committee plans to continue their service and maintenance of the campground in the years to come.

Group discusses that a memorial gathering to honor Dwaine is being planned for August 25. Deb Croghan is spearheading the event, and Dwaine’s family will come from Florida to attend.

**Old Business:**

* Memorial for Dwaine Schuldt by GTC. The Schuldt family is interested in a memorial

bench for Dwaine, placed in a location that he would appreciate. Kyle asks Kate to talk to him about how to proceed.

* Review GTC Operating Procedures

Group reviewed revisions recommended by the GTC executive committee and made a few edits to include:

Inclusion of the Girdwood Trails Management Plan in the introduction; voters are over 18 years old; update the PO Box to MOA box.

Motion:
Girdwood Trails Committee moves to accept the Girdwood Trails Committee Operating Procedures as amended.

Motion by Diana Livingston, 2nd by Barb Crews
17 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions
Motion carries

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 location TBD for possible trail work party at 7:00 pm**

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



*Trails Issues:*

* Upcoming Trails Projects:

**Recap Alaska Trails Conference April 26-28:**

Eryn Boone, Kyle Kelley, Barb Crews and Paul Crews attended the conference last weekend.

Takeaways from attendees were:

MOA has equipment and staff to help GTC measure trail use. This data would be helpful for GTC.

Events associated with the 40th anniversary of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. There are projects in Girdwood that will be seeking volunteers. These projects are on upper Winner Creek and Crow Pass trails. Signup will occur on the Alaska Trails website. Margaret will send information to GTC email list once signup is open.

Dan Starr attended the day dedicated to mountain bike trails. It is thought that the majority of new trails are being built for mountain biking. Nick Georgelos recently attended a Professional Trail Builders Association meeting in Tennessee, and at that conference 90% of trail construction is for biking.

Washington State Trails program speaker, Blaine Smith, spoke on methods of getting volunteers on the trails. Funding for trail projects is hard to come by, volunteers are key to successful maintenance programs.

One area with funding is Pittman Robertson grants. More on this later in the meeting.

RTP program had representatives attending – Kyle got to meet them face to face and understands that final awards will be announced soon.

Retired parks guru Mike Shields did trail maintenance workshops. Paul Crews attended layout and design class and pre-excavation clearing class. One idea to help with costs is to hire off-season firefighters.

Digital mapping and mapping apps are an affordable way to create maps.

Fundraising.

Risk Management Class by MOA Risk Management.

**Summer Trail Work projects list.**

Focus projects in 2018 are:

**Lower INHT**: waiting on Flood Hazard Permit
**California Creek Bridge:** 50% design by Josh Zellmer. Plan is to use repurposed wood beams that GNSC received last year from MOA project.

**SCA Crews**: June crew. Plan to work on Lower INHT, some drainage work behind the school on INHT, Brushing work on Beaver Pond Trail, Lower INHT, and possibly upper INHT.
**GTC trail project in June**. 2-3 hour project on a trail tbd either instead of or in addition to the regular GTC June meeting.

* Hand Tram

Hand tram is currently in Anchorage for paint and weld check. Crossbar on base needs to be replaced, welds will be checked this week and then cart will be repainted. Plan to install before Memorial Day. Total cost of this maintenance work is approximately $4,000.

* Other Trails Issues

Trail access from Airport property. No new information on this item. Kyle mentions that the beavers have been working hard out by the resort’s pump house. He advised DOT as the dam could impact the runway.

Trail maps. No new information on this item. Definitely new mapping is going to be needed.

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report |
| May 1, 2018 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $22,811.72 |
| 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 |  | $15,231.69 |

GTC spent $450 on Alaska Trails Conference attendance.

Next month the Hand Tram maintenance and Nanette’s fee for design work will be deducted also.

Dwaine Schuldt memorial fund has received about $200 in donations.

Paul and Barb Crews have donated funds to help offset additional charges for Bill Spencer to attend meetings to design the new multi-use trail. These funds are held in a Girdwood Inc account for this purpose.

Review and approve expense for California Creek Bridge Design as part of KMTA grant match:

Total fee is $4743, which is under the estimate of $5000. KMTA will pay 50% in grant funding.
GTC portion is $2371.50.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve expense of $2371.50 to R&M Consultants for the 50% design of the new bridge over California Creek on the Lower Iditarod National Historic Trail.
Motion by Kate Sandberg, 2nd by Nick Georgelos
17 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions

Motion carries

* Grants Status report:
* RTP Grant status. As discussed earlier, we are waiting for formal notice of the grant award. Flood permit still pending, otherwise ready to go with Andy Hehnlin and SCA crew.
* Future grant project ideas (signage at Crow Creek road trailheads, tram maintenance)
Margaret proposes KMTA grant application for maintenance work on hand tram, new rope and Dave Wilson inspection. Margaret will submit application to KMTA once total amount is known.

Another idea for the future is trailhead signage and map at Crow Creek Road where Beaver Pond Trail, Abes Trail and California Creek Trail begin. This could the beginning of standard signage throughout the valley. Please let Margaret know if you have other ideas or other funding sources to check in to.

*Updates*

* GTC/GNSC Sub-committee update
Committee met on April 27. Group is working toward the goal of having a preliminary plan for the alignment, design and construction of the new multi-use trail. Meetings are open to the public, next one is scheduled for May 24 at 3PM in the Girdwood Community Room.
* Lower Iditarod Trail Update. Previously discussed.
* Girdwood Trails Management Plan
2018 Review and update is complete and is available on line. Please read it.
Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve expense of @ $900 to Nanette Stevenson for professional work updating the Girdwood Trails Management Plan.
Motion by Paul Crews, 2nd by Shirley Durtschi
16 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstain
Motion carries.

Kate will request master of the InDesign file so that GTC has it. Margaret will store this on the MOA hard drive. Future changes can be made either with Nanette or with another graphic designer.

GTC decides to get started on the next round of revisions next month to address weaknesses in the plan. Email Margaret if you want to serve on this subcommittee.
Process for considering and approving new trails in Girdwood

* GNSC
Snow machine broke down at the end of the season.

Everything is cleaned up and put away

5K trail is now open to all

* GMBA
No additional report.
* May LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative
Executive committee will determine representatives to attend these meetnigs.

**New Business:**

* Trailhead and Connector Trail from Arlberg Parking lot
This idea is to connect winter access from the new Arlberg parking lot to the Winner Creek trail for non-skier access avoiding the 5k. This is a big endeavor, over wetlands with lots of fill. For winter only route, there could be some route finding accomplished in the summer, keeping in mind that right off the parking lot there is a major stream to contend with year-round.

This is a good project to keep on the list, but is not a priority at this time.

* Girdwood Public use cabin funded through Pittman Robertson grant (Nate Sievert)
DNR has had great success in cabin building and revenues. HLB land could be used for Public Use Cabins, promoting wildlife viewing. However, there is no one to manage cabin use.

This is also a good project to consider in the future.

* Discuss cancelling July 3, 2018 GTC Meeting
* Group will consider again at June meeting. There may be need for a meeting based on the progress of the Multi-Use trail subcommittee.
* Girdwood Area Plan Update and Trails

HLB has recommended that Trails Committee add plan for future trails in Girdwood. This section of the current Girdwood Trails Management Plan is not strong. Overall goal is to link the Trails Management Plan to the Girdwood Area Plan.

**Other Business**

* Diana updates that Girdwood Area Plan received $13,000 in funding from the Anchorage Assembly recently, which will allow them to contract with a consultant for community input. Overall budget for the GAP is estimated at $85,000.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM