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**Minutes Final**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, February 5, 2019**

**Girdwood Community Room 7PM**

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors, its committees, and subcommittees are subject to the Alaska Open Meetings Act as found in Alaska Statute 44.62.310 and Anchorage Municipal Code1.25 - Public Meetings.

**Call to Order**

Approval of February 5, 2019 Agenda Hendrickson/Livingston   
Approval of January 8, 2019 Minutes Hendrickson/Livingston

**Announcements:** None **Introduction of Guests/Presentations:** None

**Old Business:**

*Trails Issues:*

* Review and possible vote regarding Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance Conceptual Master Plan TMO and propose mountain bike park design. Group seeks GTC recommendation for GBOS Resolution of Support for the Mountain Bike Park Conceptual Master Plan.

GMBA presented map in November and updated information in January. At that time, GMBA was requested by GTC to provide a narrative, which has been received and made available to GTC to review prior to this meeting.

Group discusses style of construction, which will include machine and hand build, based on the terrain of the area of construction. Two-direction multi-use connector trails will have turn radius to match bikes needs. Trails will be rated on a similar system as ski trails (green, blue, black).

Planning Director, Michelle McNulty attended LUC last month, and was encouraging of GMBA Master Plan concept and encouraged GTC to work on an overall Trails Master Plan to encourage more cohesive trail planning overall.

Specific phasing of trail construction is dependent upon funding. HLB requires 105% of trail building funds to be in place prior to breaking ground. In the less specific “zones” listed, location of interior trails is not yet known. Perimeter trails will be built first, as they provide access for trails within the A, B and C zones.

With approval of the Bike Park Master Plan by Urban Design Commission (UDC), future trails will move forward through a process of: GMBA will determine project list to work on annually in the spring

GMBA will present this work plan to HLB, requesting permission to do the work

GMBA will report to GTC

GMBA will operate under a Cooperative Use Agreement with HLB

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 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 that the method for dealing with trails and HLB is evolving. HLB is the land owner. HLB is increasing use of system of Cooperative Use Agreements and Planning system of Urban Design Commission review to meet evolving needs to manage their assets. Abbott O’Rabbit and Four Valleys Community School already use Cooperative Use Agreements for their use of fields in summer. This is essentially a lease agreement to outline expectations and requirements of use by these entities. Girdwood Trails Management Plan and the recently adopted trail approval matrix may need to be updated to address these changes. Kate will bring this to the GMTP subcommittee’s attention.

GTC members input in the GMBA Bike Park Master Plan:

* Potential User conflict with the Nordic 5K in winter.   
  This is a trail etiquette issue
* Determine month each year for GMBA to present their summer work plan to GTC

Tentatively decided on April/May

* Parking concerns at the Arlberg parking lot

This is also a concern of the HLB and UDC

* Receive input from Girdwood Fire Chief regarding rescue capacity   
  5K provides better access for rescue vehicles than most trails.

Signage is required with waypoints marked so that trail users know where they are.

* Phasing – Desire to keep multi-use trail along north boarder (wrapping from Cat trail to high point) and Zone C to the end of phase efforts.

Group previously discussed phasing based on funding, HLB permission.

Perimeter trails will be necessary to build first, then trails inside A, B and C Zones will be toward the end of construction in these areas.

* Reporting vs Permission from GTC for annual trail work plans  
  As land owner, it is the responsibility of HLB to provide the permission. There are many inspections, reports, review of HLB.
* Environmental concerns: Routing away from viewshed of existing trails, keeping construction/clearing as limited as possible.  
  Trails already built are representative of construction style and impact. Revegetation plan in place.
* Safety at trail intersections.

Yes, group sees need for slowing bike traffic before trails merge. This will be accomplished with switchback construction.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to not object to the Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance Bike Park Master Plan as presented to move the draft plan forward to Land Use, Girdwood Board of Supervisors and Heritage Land Bank, with suggestions from this meeting to be incorporated in upcoming drafts presented.

Motion by Diana Livingston, 2nd by Eben Stone, amended by Kate Sandberg

16 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstentions

Motion carries

* 2019 Trails Projects:
* work plan items

Group reviews list of trail projects identified in the community. Some projects will require outreach to neighbors, such as Deb’s Way. Group also discusses Virgin Creek Falls Trail, this is likely a larger project that requires funding sources to resolve the trail tread issues. Other maintenance issues identified appear achievable for planned 2 SCA interns and 2 outdoor work parties with GTC. Projects on the list for 2019 work are: overall signage and brushing, Deb’s Way, Beaver Pond Trail, Abe’s Trail, California Creek Trail, Athabascan Trail from Crow Creek Road to the bridge at the school, Lower INHT, Upper INHT, Virgin Falls Trail, Shortcut from Alyeska Highway to Davos, Lions Club Park, Danich Trail, Wagon Trail, social connector trails to neighborhoods, Arlberg parking Lot.

* Future Trail goals

HLB has determined areas that need work by GTC to work on new trails, existing trails, proposed trails and the INHT. HLB recommends a trails master plan, which may be a collaborative effort with the Girdwood Area Plan.

Group also needs to review their vision, mission and goals.

* Winter Grooming Update/Training

Soft snow required end of grooming with snow machines in Moose Meadow and upper meadows trails for a while. CPG was able to help pack trail with the snow cat, and tandem grooming can begin again in those areas with more snowfall and colder temperatures. Lots of grooming work on the 5k and bike path to it along Arlberg Rd. Cat trail is also great for skiing.

* Other Trails Issues

Trail access from Airport property

No items to discuss. Group agrees to remove airport property concern from the agenda.

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report | | |
| February 5, 2019 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $32,176.39 |
| February 5, 2019 |  |  |
| 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 |  | $24,596.36 |
| Note: No change from last report | |  |

* Grants Status report:
* KMTA grant status ($17,000 bridge construction grant). No change
* RTP Grant status (2019). Application received score of 92. Expect announcement of awards in February/March. Government shutdown and change in federal staff overseeing the project for Federal Highways may cause delays in announcement and granting.

*Updates*

* GNSC: Likely starting adult ski lessons for classic and skate. Watch for info from Four Valleys Community School. Ski Meister event in April; Assist with Girdwood Trails Marathon in the fall.
* GMBA: Spring fundraiser in the works.
* GBOS (Christina Hendrickson)  
  Chugach Electric is rebuilding power line from Hope to Summit, which will limit redundancy in power generation. Plans are in place to provide generated power in case of an outage.

Upcoming meetings with Cemetery, Skate Park, Girdwood Area Plan.

Fire Department is recruiting for Girdwood members. Open house is Feb 9 from 9A-11A.

* February LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative: Kate and/or Carolyn will attend.

**New Business:**

* Girdwood Trails Management Plan Update subcommittee introduction of Trails Management Objectives (TMO) form. Preliminary draft is presented. Equestrian Use is to be removed, and there may be some other edits. Group is encouraged to email Margaret: [tylerms@muni.org](mailto:tylerms@muni.org) with their suggestions and edits to this TMO draft to be forwarded to Barb Crews, who is handling this project with the GMTP subcommittee.
* Alaska Trails Conference April 18-20, 2019. Discuss GTC sponsorship of 2 members to attend as in previous years.  
  GTC members are encouraged to consider attending. GTC will determine sponsorships at the March GTC meeting.
* Discuss projects and need for GBOS Resolution of Support for Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant cycle spring 2019. Applications due April 14.
* Discuss projects for funding and need for GBOS Resolution of Support for KMTA Grant cycle spring 2019. Applications are due March 4. Group discusses trail signage for this grant opening. Perhaps fall cycle could be a trail project.

**Other Business:**Tim Charnon applied for a grant through the USFS for the Lower INHT from Ruane to the end of Karolius Road. The purpose of the proposed project is to bring that section of trail up to USFS standards.

Meeting adjourned 9:10PM