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**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, August 6, 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** 7:02PM Carolyn Brodin

Approval of August 6, 2019 Agenda KS/CB 4-0  
Approval of May 7, 2019 Minutes KS/CB 4-0

**Announcements:**

Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission Meeting is scheduled for Aug 22 at 5:30PM in the Girdwood Community Room.

KMTA event in Hope: Mineshaft Grinder – running and biking event in Hope on Palmer Creek Road Aug 17. Group is seeking volunteers and participants for this inaugural event. Info available on line: <https://www.kmtacorridor.org/mineshaft/>

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

Krystal Hoke, Executive Director of Girdwood Alliance

**Old Business:**

*Trails Issues:*

* Update on Girdwood Trails Master Plan – Christina Hendrickson has been working on funding sources and GBOS will consider Girdwood Valley Service Area (GVSA) funding as part of their Budget Work Session #3 next week. Continue to consider stakeholders to include in the project, which will be part of the Girdwood Area Plan.
* Status of signs grant project and KMTA grant application – Kate Sandberg updates that GTC will apply for about $7000 in matching KMTA funds for interpretive signage and waypoint signs on the Beaver Pond Trail, California Creek Trail, Abe’s Trail network.
* Girdwood Trails Management Plan Update   
  (TMO) form & Flow chart have not changed. Flow chart was sent to HLB for review and await response.  
  HLBAC meeting is scheduled in Girdwood on Sept 10. Addition of these to the Girdwood Trails Management Plan pending MOA review.
* Recap on GTC Volunteer Work parties: Work parties in June and July were a great success.  
  SCA Crew update: SCA intern program has been successful. Brooks had to leave early for military service; Jesse is here for another 2 weeks and we are pairing our Seasonal Parks Caretaker, David, with him for tasks that need 2 people.   
  Volunteer incentive program: Planning to reward volunteers with gifts at/after September trail event.  
  End of season trail project: Trail project to be determined. Planning for September event.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 3, 2019**

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

* Hand Tram: June fatality resulted from a fall from the East tram dock (hotel side). Review of the incident resulted in additional safety signage warning about accessing lower deck only to exit and enter the tram car and safety fasteners for the cable. On-going weekly inspections and review of the tram showed that passengers were heeding the signage and hand tram operating as designed. On August 3 a similar accident occurred, resulting in serious injury. Hand tram is closed pending risk management and municipal review of the tram. GTC members discuss that the hand tram has become a destination. Volume of hikers on the trail is much higher than when the tram was built. Improved trail provides easy access.
* Oher Trails Issues  
  Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor Sweeps

DOT can apply for federal funds from the Community Transportation Program (CTP) Grant. Application period has closed, but State DOT has indicated that they can move funds around, which could fund safety improvements on the bike path. Request needs to come from the community.

Group reviews response letter from DOT to GBOS with diagrams of the path as designed, which does not match the path that was built. As designed, the issues that the community has complained about would be eliminated:

* + direction of path users into the highway
  + lack of buffer between highway and path
  + lack of shoulder at intersections of highway and path
  + ease of access by vehicles to enter and drive on the path

There is some confusion of whether this application should be made by DOT or by GVSA, however the path is State owned, and responsibility to build and maintain the path belongs to DOT.

Motion:   
Girdwood Trails Committee moves to recommend a GBOS Resolution of Support for DOT application for CTP funding to resolve design and safety issues related to the Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor.

Motion by Kate Sandberg, 2nd by Carolyn Brodin   
Motion carries 4-0 with 2 abstaining

Virgin Creek Trail

Virgin Creek Trail has become well-known and trail tread, parking, signage are not adequate. Trail improvement here is high priority for GVSA, which can now work on the area as it has been added to the service area. Issues are complex due to the lack of land available for public parking, location of the trail head at the end of a small cul de sac surrounded by privately owned land. Undeveloped parcel is likely to be built on soon. Trailhead is on land trust land, land trust must approve changes/improvements.

GTC discusses scheduling a walk-thru in the fall and inviting neighbors to attend. Date for this will be set at the September GTC meeting. This topic will be a main priority throughout the winter.

Pedestrian Flashing Crosswalk Light  
Phase 1 of installation of the crosswalk light is complete. Phase 2 will be completed once infrastructure equipment arrives, likely after school starts.

* Financial Report (TBA)

GTC needs to find a member to serve as treasurer. Kate Sandberg to talk to Diana Livingston to find out what is involved. Kyle lets the group know that there is a reimbursement of $46,700 pending from RTP grant.

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report | | |
| August 2, 2019 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $31,726.39 |
| May 7, 2019 |  |  |
| Expenses Paid |  | (63,846.96) |
| Deposits to Account |  | 35,237.19 |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $3,116.62 |
| August 2, 2019 |  |  |
| Deposits/Grants Pending |  |  |
| Reserve for Trail Signs |  | (500.00) |
| Reserve for Forest Fair Fund |  | (80.03) |
| Reserve for Further |  | (7,000.00) |
| Trails Publication Costs |  |  |
| Reserve for Volunteer Prizes |  | (500.00) |
| Balance Unreserved Funds |  | -$4,963.41 |

* Grants & Projects Status report:
* KMTA grant status ($17,000 bridge construction grant)  
  completed and reimbursed. This project is closed.
* KMTA Parks and Rec grant for trail building tools ($4290 matching)  
  Completed and reimbursement pending bill for the motorized wheelbarrow.  
  Kyle is contacting vendor to receive bill.
* RTP Grant status ($75,000)  
  Partial completion and partially reimbursed - $28,000 remains to be spent.
* APF grant for Lower INHT ($15,000)  
  Received notification of $5,000 funding for Phase 2 (Ruane to Karolius).
* ACF grant for power wheelbarrow ($1000)  
  Received $800 from ACF, need to provide bill/receipt for power wheelbarrow to complete and close this grant.

*Updates*

* GNSC – no update
* GMBA – crew is completing trails previously approved.
* GBOS (Christina Hendrickson) - no additional update.
* August LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative – Carolyn and Kate will work out attendance.

**New Business:** None  
**Other Business:**USFS is donating SCA Crew to Girdwood Trails projects for 2 weeks in summer 2020. Likely work on Iditarod Trail.

Krystal Hoke invites GTC members to attend concert fundraiser for Girdwood Alliance on SAT Aug 24 at the Roundhouse. Resort is donating 50% of tram ticket sales that day to Girdwood Alliance. Donations also accepted.

**Adjourn** 8:15PM