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**Minutes Final**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, December 3, 2019**

**Girdwood Community Room 7PM**

GTC Voting members are defined as Girdwood residents or property owners age 18 years or older who have attended one or more meetings in the last 12 months, based on sign in on the sign in sheet.

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 December 3, 2019 Agenda Approved   
Approval of November 5, 2019 Minutes Approved  
  
**Announcements:**  
HLB 1 and 5 year work plans are open for public comment through Dec 8, 2019: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/hlb/2014%20Docs/2020_HLBPlan_20191025+Appendices.pdf>  
  
**Introduction of Guests/Presentations:**None  
  
**Public Comment (3 minutes each)**:  
Christina Hendrickson recommends that people review and comment on HLB 1 and 5 year work plans.

**Old Business:**  
1. Girdwood Trails Plan: Hiring Huddle AK as the sole source contractor is pending Assembly approval, hopefully before the end of the year. Scope of work provided in November GTC Meeting packet. Formation of the Girdwood Trails Plan subcommittee is one of the first tasks, involving all who want to participate in information gathering. Trails Plan volunteers/stakeholders will meet monthly about 1 hour per month for the next year. Formal kickoff will occur after contract is signed. Huddle AK will facilitate, take notes and organize meetings. Group is encouraged to set up their own charter to provide structure and governance of the meetings.

Imagine! Girdwood (Girdwood Area Plan) is on-going planning effort, which includes all recreation as well as trails in the recreation component. As Huddle AK is also the contractor on this project, there will be easy information sharing and collaboration with the overlapping aspects of the two plans. Funding of GAP and of Girdwood Trails Plan are dissimilar.

2. Hand Tram review of safety and management  
Anchorage Daily News article recently published was shared on Girdwood Facebook page, helping to provide feedback from the community regarding future of the trail corridor and tram. All options will be explored.  
Bridge is probably $500,000 and may involve more than one crossing (two bridges), route study, feasibility – probably a 10+ year option.

Safety improvements on the hand tram from architect/engineer:

Nets:

Replacement of the Safety Nets: added in 2011, existing nets are 4’x8’. Accidents in 2019 resulted from people falling past the nets. New nets are 8’x11’ with steel bolt frame.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 2020**

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

Paint/markings:

Paint floor: hazard area paint striping to deter bystanders from using this area to pull rope.

Railings:   
Railings to add separation between the tram deck and net and between the lower and upper tram decks.  
  
Gates:   
Gate for passage from the upper deck to the lower deck.   
Gate on the lower deck to the net. This could impede use of tram with bikes and may impede tram docking.   
Gate closing behind the tram. This has been proposed for a gate closing behind the tram, this seems like it could create a friction point and complicate use of the tram to the point that it creates new problems. Group discusses other barriers.

Side rails:

Rails on side of safety nets to help bump into the net.

Construction with speed rails allows for assembly on site and is easily removable for access for maintenance.

Total expected cost of mitigation efforts is $10-$15,000.

MOA Risk Management team will weigh in on plans that are recommended by GTC. Kyle seeks input from GTC in January in the form of a motion supporting safety measures and recommending GBOS funding from the Parks and Recreation capital fund to pay for it. Kyle has a meeting with stakeholders including Alyeska Resort, USFS planned in December to receive their input.

Plan for operational management of the tram will occur after GTC decision is made on the safety measures.

Discussion includes:  
Fence barrier along the tram buildings facing cliffs – redundancy with the safety net that doesn’t block the tram but impedes falls from the tram buildings.

In January there should be a motion for GTC to recommend support for the Hand tram with additional safety improvements to be outlined and approved.

Concerns expressed about the ongoing risks based on the current volume of use of the tram and anticipated growth. There is significant interest in a bridge, this is a longer term and expensive project that will take time to research location, design and engineering. Bridge location would need to be determined through route study. If a bridge were built it would likely be turned over to the USFS for long term management.

3. Virgin Creek Falls Trail issues and Improvements

Last month reviewed photos of the trail and its main issues. SCA Crew in 2020 will likely work on this trail as a main priority. Section at start of trail is in the worst condition due to drainage and glaciation. Kyle suggests elevated steel grate trail on gabian baskets to keep hikers on the trail and allow forest regrowth. Steel material wont decay or become as slippery as wood decking. Removal of deadfall trees.

4. Winter Grooming. Pending snow. Machines are ready and batteries are charged.  
  
5. Trails Issues  
*Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor Sweeps:* Installed signs on the bike path

*Pedestrian Flashing Crosswalk Light:* Installation next week and should be operational soon. School will come on a field trip to learn how to use it safely and for ribbon cutting. DOT and GVSA have agreement for DOT to pay up to $300,000 for the signage/paint on the bike path and for the flashing crosswalk light. These funds have just been released from Alyeska Highway construction and will be passed to Girdwood to reimburse for these additional projects within the Alyeska Highway project area.

Airport Access: No new information

6. Financial Report (Carolyn Brodin) $4920 reimbursement from KMTA for trail tools received. Full report is in the meeting packet. Balance of unreserved funds is $21,608.

Grants Status report – provided in packet. Active open grants are KMTA for Beaver Pond Trail Signs, RTP 2019, Anchorage Park Foundation grant. RTP for 2020 was just applied for.

Likely to pursue FLAP grant – Federal Land Access Program grant – during its next grant cycle.   
  
**New Business:**

7. 2020 GTC Officer Elections in January: Chair, 2 vice chairs, treasurer will be seated in January.

8. 2020 Trail projects and objectives: Major are Virgin Creek Trail and Lower Iditarod NHT. Planning to have 2 SCA crew members to work on these and other smaller projects. List to be provided at the January meeting.

Group discusses that there is on-going work to be done on Beaver Pond Trail, netting on boardwalks

**Updates and other business:**

9. Other Girdwood Trail Partners Updates:   
GNSC – no report  
GMBA- GMBA completed the 3 trails that were initiated originally. Kiosks built, working on signage. Future trails effort that was initiated this spring was held off to see what evolved with Girdwood Trails Plan effort in order to maximize efficiency and cost with UDC.  
Girdwild – Upcoming meetings in Jan/Feb. contact Brenden to join the mailing list: wild@girdwild.org  
KMTA – no report

10. Trails Management Plan Update – no meeting in December.

11. GBOS (Christina Hendrickson): Girdwood Clinic presented that they are looking at various options to grow either in their current lot or on HLB land at the end of Egloff Rd.

Historic Preservation. One idea is to record histories regarding Glacier City Hall/Fire Hall/Little Bears.

Housing Working Group making progress regarding short term housing and broader discussions as well.

12. December LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Carolyn plans to attend.

13. Other: None

**Adjourn 8:20PM**