



MINUTES FINAL

Girdwood Trails Committee Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 6, 2024 7:00PM

Girdwood Trails Committee meetings are taking place on Teams with in-person attendance at the Girdwood Community Room, 250 Egloff Rd.

Call to Order 7PM Barb Crews

Approval of Feb 6 2024 meeting agenda approved Carolyn/Kate Assent
Approval of Jan 2 2024 meeting minutes approved Carolyn/Briana Assent

Announcements & Presentations: Foraker Group Board Training is TUE Feb 27 at 6PM in the Girdwood Community Room. The program is free to attend. Please register to ensure that we have the proper number of handouts/materials:
https://www.forakergroup.org/site/index.cfm/calendar.ShowEvent?classid=438&event_id=3198

Introductions: None

Public Comment (3 minutes each):

Carolyn Brodin: Noticing helicopter traffic over meadows; Deb Essex responds that route for outbound helicopters is over meadows generally as they avoid the school and flight pattern for fixed wing access to airstrip.

Barb Crews: Noted rezone of the gravel pit for avalanche mitigation munitions storage and heliport and the impact of that on where the Wagon Trail alignment must end. Margaret Tyler states that DOT is expected to present update at LUC and GBOS in February.

Old Business:

1. Update on Winner Creek Trail Bridge at Glacier Creek

Working on design plans to get them to 100% completion so that the project can go out to bid.

Seeking funds for current anticipated gap in funding, approx. \$250,000, according to projected estimates. Cost of the bridge will be known once bids are received. Delay in design documents and funding gap make it most likely that construction will be in 2025. Staff is updating the Rasmuson application to secure that funding source. Service Area has committed \$500,000, Cares Act and State Funding secured; USFS providing substantial in-kind match and possible limited funding once federal budget is passed.

2. Consider Community Trails Info message for upcoming month to be shared on social media.

Promote sharing of trail users experience on trails – share photos and use #GirdwoodTrails.

3. Update of Trail maps

Map Subcommittee edits and recommendations have been provided to contractor and some follow-up edits as well. Subcommittee will likely meet before the next GTC meeting to finalize summer map and then shift to winter.

4. Update on solutions to oversize vehicle use at the end of Timberline at Virgin Creek Falls

Recently a commercial group with a portable sauna parked at the trailhead. Whittier Police and staff met the operator and reviewed proper permitting and elements that are not permissible uses.

Commercial permitting for use of Girdwood trails is on-going and most who have requested permits are supportive.

Formal signage is complete with no parking signs installed last year.

Informal signage may be another possibility for neighbors to consider.

5. Projects for Summer 2024

Main projects are:

- Beaver Pond Trail Bridge rebuild. This project will require lumber which we plan to haul in the winter over the snowpack.
- Middle Iditarod National Historic Trail: Two bridge projects in this section, also plan to haul materials during the winter over the snowpack. MINHT RTP grant application was recommended to State Parks Director by ORTAB. Pending official notification. Funding for this project is also requested via Alaska Trails for State funding. There is plenty of work on this trail for significant funding to be spent to improve drainage, tread, repair/replace bridges etc.
- Alaska Trails Volunteer Day
- Girdwood Work Party dates through Friends of Girdwood Trails and GTC

6. Letter of Support for AK Long Trail and Middle Iditarod NHT for CAPSIS consideration
GBOS resolution in support of the Middle INHT has been supplied to Alaska Trails. Support for the Long Trail is requested from GTC. Draft letter is provided, although there will be some edits, this is the general content.

Motion:

GTC approves a letter from the GTC Chair in support of the Alaska Long Trail, as presented.

Motion by Kate Sandberg/2nd Carolyn Brodin

Assent vote

New Business:

7. Letters of Support (Sandberg)

Kate asks if GTC could/should be more nimble in providing letters of support for projects of interest to them, instead of the 2 meeting new/old business cycle.

Typically GTC would send recommendation for resolutions of support to GBOS. GTC writes few letters themselves, as GBOS is the representative body for the community. It is noted that Friends of Girdwood Trails and other non-government affiliated groups are able to respond more quickly, GTC is different because they spend taxpayer funds and abide by Open Meetings Act. Requests can be moved from new to old business based on time constraints.

Other:

8. Ongoing Trails Issues for update:

- Trails Plan progress with Anchorage Assembly (Feb 13; Feb 27 for possible vote).

Introduction Feb 13 was not on the initial draft agenda posted today, but may be added to the agenda this week. It is noted that this schedule conflicts with Foraker Training.

- Status of Trails grants:

As previously discussed, RTP grant pending notification, Rasmuson grant being updated. See report for others.

- Other Trails Issues

Opening positions for Parks Caretakers soon. Will see if our employees from last year will come back. If not, we will recruit for summer seasonal staff.

DOT contractor is working on the abutment to the Glacier Creek Bridge. Shortcut to Davos is closed. Work is expected to be complete in a week. Some cleanup in spring.

HLB 1 and 5 year Plans up for comment thru FRI. GBOS is providing comments, as will staff. Individuals and other groups may also provide input by Feb 9.

Items of note are:

- Statement in the plan about no work on Middle INHT until there is an easement. Recommend that the language is changed as GTC and Service Area already maintain this trail and have for some time.
- Winner Creek Extension Trail. Plan recommends transfer of this to Girdwood Parks and Rec. Management is somewhat unclear currently as Alyeska re-built the trail and its on HLB land. GPR supports change to clarify management.
- Deb Essex notes that Bikewood isn't listed as a lessee or permittee for the flow bike trails.

9. Monthly LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives:

10. Written Reports should be submitted to include in meeting packet

Adjourn Kate Sandberg/Deb Essex 7:45PM