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**Minutes Final**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

**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 February 4, 2020 Agenda C Hendrickson/K Sandberg  
Approval of January 7, 2020 Minutes C Hendrickson/B Raymond-Yakoubian  
  
**Announcements:**  
Assembly Resolution AR 2020-36 being discussed at the Assembly which provides a list of trails closed to trapping. Currently lists Abe's, Beaver Pond, California Creek, Crow Pass, Winner Creek & Upper Winner Creek as these are trails that pass through MOA land and end up on land where trapping is allowed. Public Hearing scheduled for Feb 25, 2020. Most trails in Girdwood are on HLB land, where trapping is not allowed.

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations:** Roundtable introductions of group. Joe Bell, Craig Schubert, Mike Edgington are attending on behalf of GAP; Lia Slemons, KMTA Trails Coordinator  
Holly Spoth-Torres, Girdwood Trails Plan contractor. Christina Hendrickson, GBOS Parks and Rec Supervisor, attending via telephone. **Public Comment (3 minutes each)**: None

**Old Business:**

1. Hand Tram: update on status of safety measures; continue discussion of operational management plan  
Safety measures approved by GTC last month were introduced to GBOS last month.  
Review of management plan ideas with Alyeska Resort and USFS. Parks and Rec is also considering increasing summer park caretaker to full time instead of current part-time position, to provide 7-day/week coverage. This will be presented to GBOS in February. Another idea considered is hiring a contractor to take on this role.

2. Discuss and vote on Virgin Creek Falls Trail issues and Improvements  
Group discusses working on the first 200’ of Virgin Creek Falls trail. This area has high volume of traffic and significant drainage adds to braiding of the trail outside of the trail corridor. Kyle recommends elevated metal walkway to keep hikers on the corridor and allow the ground around the trail to recover. Gabian baskets will be used to elevate the metal walkway. This work will be completed by SCA Crew this summer. Other projects include better parking, directional and speed limit signage on Timberline and review of permitting/permitting restrictions for large commercial groups that use the trail.

Motion:  
GTC moves to approve Virgin Creek Falls Trail improvements as discussed as a priority work project for 2020.

Motion by K Sandberg, 2nd by R Tenny  
10 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstaining

Motion carries.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2020**

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

3. Review list of 2020 Trail projects and objectives, discuss summer work party dates

Group reviews the list of trail projects. This list provides an agenda for SCA crew work and park staff.   
Lower Iditarod NHT: No official notice, but GTC application for RTP grant was well received by the ORTAB board. It seems likely that GTC will receive funds to continue the Lower Iditarod NHT.

Virgin Creek Falls Trail  
Group will discuss work party dates at a future meeting.

4. Review and discuss proposed updates to Trails Management Plan updates to Chapters 4, 5 and 6 for vote in March 2020.

Re-writing and reorganization of the Trails Management Plan completed by the sub-committee.

Chapter 5: Approval of trails by Girdwood Trails Committee is a new chapter, incorporating information compiled

over the last year. Some elements, such as Trail User Experience, may be elements of the Girdwood Trails Plan and

not the Trails Management plan, once the Trails Plan is complete.

5. Winter Grooming

Grooming has been going well. Currently working with one machine as the second. Alyeska Resort and CPG are likely

to groom with the snow cat once they are able to access the area. It is helpful to get the additional compaction on

the light snow. Eileen Halverson requests less wide grooming on the upper meadows.

6. Trails Issues

None discussed.

7. Discuss GTC project for KMTA Grant cycle (March 6 deadline)

This will be old business at GBOS in February. Virgin Creek Falls trail is the preference of staff, to receive funds to

match with Dugan’s donation.

8. Girdwood Trails Plan Subcommittee formation  
Stakeholders/Meetings

Monthly meetings of the subcommittee, which will include user groups

Christina Hendrickson has been working toward Girdwood Trails Plan for the last year. Holly Spoth-Torres with Huddle

AK is the contractor handling this project. Scope of work is available on GBOS website from Oct/Nov meetings of

GTC. Project should take about 12 months. Group will determine self-governance and structure. Holly will facilitate,

provide notes and document the process and outcome.

First step is visioning: Management, feedback from community. Community meetings should start in the spring.

Summer meetings will continue with writing of the plan, working with the USFS on mapping, etc. Community

meetings resume in the fall, with presentation to Trails, GBOS and the Assembly in early 2021.

Holly Spoth-Torres discusses who will participate on the sub-committee; how they will operate, generally; when the

meetings will take place. Meetings will be publicly noticed as other committees are. Huddle AK will generate agenda

and notes from the meetings.

Preliminary Work group is identified: Carolyn Brodin, Nick Georgelos, Brendan Raymond-Yakoubian, Ron Tenny, Craig

Schubert, Eileen Halverson, Paul Crews, Jonathon Lee, Deb Essex, Brian Burnett.

How: Group recommends a consensus model; Recommend philosophical approach rather than getting too specific.

Planning dept will need to know where trailheads are and amenities to the trails, such as parking, identifying user groups using the trail amenities. Parking is a consistent issue to be addressed in planning for trails.

When: Meet first TUE of each month from 6PM-7:30PM. Trails will move back by ½ hour, starting at 7:30PM as of

March 2020.

**New Business:** None

**Updates and other business:**

9. Trails Management Plan Subcommittee Update: Previously discussed.

10. Financial Report (Carolyn Brodin)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $33,089.48 |
| January 31, 2020 |  |  |
| Dugan Grant |  | ($3,400.00) |
| 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 |  | $21,609.45 |
| 1/31/2020 |  |  |

These available funds will be used to match with RTP grant.

Current open grants are:

RTP phase 1 part 2 (about $30,000 remaining for Lower INHT)

Anchorage Park Foundation (Lower INHT)  
KMTA Beaver Pond Trail Signs: 6 people from GTC working on project with Micah Wedeking, Eagle Scout candidate. Installation is scheduled for May 30. Posts at Trailheads to the trails as well as at the Beaver Pond. Information will include emergency locator information. There is an effort to standardize this information with GNSC and GMBA as well as USFS. Dedication will be August 1 with KMTA and other stakeholders and partners.

Pending grants are:

KMTA March cycle with Virgin Creek Falls Trail  
RTP Lower INHT phase 2

11. GBOS (Christina Hendrickson)

GBOS passed Resolution of Support for Alyeska Nordic Day Spa. Additional 50-60 staff needed to work in the spa. Alyeska Resort is working on additional staff housing, about 40 units expected.

Fire Department needs additional Girdwood volunteers.

Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission seeking grant from State’s Dept of Natural Resources to inventory cultural resources in Girdwood.

Next meeting is Feb 17 at 7pm.

12. Other Girdwood Trail Partners Updates: GNSC; GMBA; Girdwild; KMTA; Imagine! Girdwood (GAP)

GMBA: Grant cycles are coming around, GMBA wants to apply for KMTA Grant and needs a letter of support from GTC. Project is to improve Small House Trail to eliminate the current exit and instead continue the trail to a better crossing with the Nordic trail and extend it to the 1k cut through to terminate at the parking lot. This will keep bikers in the woods longer and off the Nordic trail to avoid trail user conflicts on the steeper section of the Nordic Loop. This will be considered as Old Business at the next GTC Meeting with additional information and vote.

Girdwild: no report

KMTA: Lia Slemons provides update on Trail Towns discussion in Girdwood. Current meetings occurring with Girdwood Trails Plan, Imagine! Girdwood (GAP) and other local groups, such as Girdwood Chamber, Rotary, etc. KMTA is listening to what is being discussed at these other forums and anticipates holding a Trail Towns meeting in March.

Imagine! Girdwood: Discussion with KMTA regarding Trail Towns and incorporation of elements of this in the area plan. Housing discussions. Continued interest in maintaining walkable community, as in the current Girdwood Area Plan.

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

14. Other: None

**Adjourn 9:05PM**