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**Minutes Draft  
Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, March 3, 2020**

**Girdwood Community Room 7:30PM**

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** 7:45PM Carolyn Brodin, Chair.  
March 3, 2020 Agenda approved Kate Sandberg/Michelle Tenny  
February 4, 2020 Minutes approved w change Nick Georgelos/Kate Sandberg  
  
**Announcements:**Municipal Vote By Mail ballots will be sent out March 17. Voting occurs from March 18-April 7.   
GVSA items are:  
Girdwood bond proposition for a new community building to replace Little Bears and Glacier City Hall  
GBOS Seat E. File as a write-in candidate by March 7 with the clerk’s office.

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations:**Roundtable introductions. New members are Patty Hamre and Ben Kohler. **Public Comment (3 minutes each)**: Public Comment must be on subjects not listed on the agenda.  
Patty Hamre: Stumpy’s Trail was formally created through the municipal process many years ago. She’s noticed that it’s not listed as such on GNSC maps, those maps say “Upper Meadows” she requests that these are adjusted to say “Stumpy’s Trail”. GNSC will use formal name on maps.

**Old Business:**

1. Hand Tram: update on status of safety measures; continue discussion of operational management plan

Safety Measures: GBOS agreed with GTC on the hand tram safety measures, Kyle has presented the agreed safety measures to MOA and there is a meeting on March 17 to review in person with Risk Management and City Manager. The swing gate is still a concern of the community as it prohibits use of the tram by mtn bikers and there is concern of additional friction points and difficulty in operation by solo tram users.

Operational Management Plan: Kyle has been working with MOA and likely partners to formalize roles in future management of the Hand tram, including working toward a Memorandum of Agreement with Alyeska Resort for assistance with mechanical aspects of the tram as well as response to incidents there; the USFS, Girdwood Fire and Rescue. Kyle has proposed additional hours to have the Seasonal Parks Caretaker work on weekends to provide MOA staff coverage on those days. Local volunteers will also be requested to provide coverage. Staff and volunteer training specific to the tram operations will be outlined in the management plan. Plan details will continue to be drafted and a proposal available for GTC to vote on in April.

In addition, a bridge route study is recommended by staff to GTC and GBOS. Bridge route study would determine if a bridge to create the connection in the upper valley is possible, and where. A later study would estimate the cost.

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

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

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

GVSA plans to hire 2 Student Conservation Association interns again this year to work on trail projects. The trail projects list provides a list of projects that they can work on, as well as other volunteer opportunities. Priority projects now are completing the Lower Iditarod National Historic Trail and Virgin Creek Falls Trail, pending grant funding.

Dates for GTC Trail Work Parties are TBA. Standard dates of GTC meetings are listed, however since GTC will be working on the Trail Master Plan, it may be better to cancel the regular GTC meeting and hold work parties on other dates.

3. Review and vote on proposed updates to Trails Management Plan updates to Chapters 4, 5 and 6.

Barb Crews presented the updates in January and group has been able to review her recommendations to edit and

reorganize chapters 4-6 since then. She has received permission from Alaska Trails to use their language regarding

sustainable trails. Flow Chart of approval of trails is pending MOA Planning approval. Jonathon Lee asks about

removal of Green Infrastructure language from Page 23. Barb directs him to the language on Sustainable Trails.

Group discusses that the “green infrastructure” language is outdated, the concept has evolved and become more

focused on “sustainable” and “durable”. Nick Georgelos states that he is not concerned about nuances to this plan

as the purpose of the plan is that it is changeable to meet the evolving needs of the community and trail user

groups.

Motion:

GTC moves to approve the edits and reorganization of the Girdwood Trails Management Plan as presented.

Motion by Nick Georgelos/2nd by Ron Tenny

13 in favor

0 opposed

3 abstaining

Motion carries

Trails Management Plan Subcommittee is currently taking a break while the Trails Master Plan is under way. It

will be good to make sure the format of the Management plan can be incorporated in the Master plan, if needed,

and also that the format of the Management plan is stable and downloadable from the website as incompatibility of

the various formats of word and additional documents was a driver to move to publisher-quality product initially.

4. Winter Grooming

Grooming has been going well, thank you Shane Bowlin for mechanical help with the snow machines.

Ben Kohler discusses adding to the snow machine grooming a track sled, which could be purchased via local donations

and given to Parks and Rec for volunteer grooming effort. There is a group interested in doing the grooming as well.

The track sled creates a packed trail about 24” wide, appropriate for hiking, biking, xc touring skiing. Trails packed

with this would be more usable than just foot packed trails, which become domed with use. Narrower groomed trails

would take the pressure off existing groomed trails by providing alternate routes for multi-use trail users. In addition,

the sled can pull up to 600 lbs in weight and could be used to stage trail materials to locations that are difficult to

access in summer. This will make for a safer and better trail and would be used on trails approved by GTC. Current

unauthorized grooming of the Winner Creek Trail and Lower INHT as well as overall increase in winter trail use

indicates that there is need for and interest in additional trails access in winter. Nick Georgelos states that he will loop

in with Ben regarding these ideas to be incorporated in the Trails Master Plan. If Ben wants to pursue this with GTC

formally, he should propose specific trails to be track sled groomed and bring them to GTC for review, discussion, and

approval. GTC is aware that there are members of the trail user community that do not want all trails to be groomed.

5. Trails Issues

* Eileen Halverson requests trash cans be provided on trails for disposal of dog waste.
* Carolyn Brodin says there are 3 trees down on the Crow Creek side of the Beaver Pond Trail. Trail uses can get over them now due to snow pack, but they’ll need to be removed in spring.
* Deb Essex says she’s noticed some overnight parking at the Arlberg parking lot at the 5K. Group discusses that the powder hut has been well-used for overnight camping this winter, and those campers would likely be parked in the lot overnight. If there is something of concern occurring (ie camping in vehicles overnight in the lot or vehicles abandoned in the lot), it is recommended to call Whittier Police to handle.
* Unauthorized snow machine grooming of the Winner Creek Trail. This trail is USFS responsibility, it has been handled, grooming has stopped and will not reoccur.

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

As discussed in prior meetings, project is to improve the most used part of the trail to

Class 3 (18” wide) standard with trail fabric, gravel in those sections were appropriate and elevated metal

walkway to get over the area that drains and glaciates, and addition of interpretive/safety sign to match the ones

being developed for the Beaver Pond Trail Complex. Pending letter from Greatland Trust and budget worksheet,

the grant application will go in on Friday to KMTA.

7. Vote on request from GMBA for GTC Letter of Support for work on GMBA Small House Trail.

Change to routing of Small House Trail will improve the intersection for all trail users and additional section of trail

will double the length of this well-used beginner mountain biking trail.

Motion:

GTC moves to approve a letter of support for the Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance KMTA grant application for the trail project as presented.

Motion by Eileen Halverson/2nd by Paul Crews  
12 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstaining

**New Business:**

8. Discuss GTC participation at the Alaska Trails’ 2020 Statewide Trails Conference April 23-25 and Trail Design and Layout Course April 21-22.  
GTC typically sends 2 people to attend the Statewide Trails Conference. Please consider attending and request approval of expense at the April meeting. There is also a pre-conference program on Trail Design and Layout.

**Updates and other business:**

9. Trails Management Plan Subcommittee Update: with the approval of the changes earlier tonight this subcommittee is concluding their current work. Group is unlikely to meet until after Girdwood Trails Master Plan is complete.

10. Trails Plan Subcommittee Update: Trails Master Plan held its first meeting tonight at 6PM, establishing roles and parameters of their work. Minutes will be generated by Huddle AK and then Margaret will post them on the website and email distribution in the same way as other meeting information is distributed.

11. Financial Report (Carolyn Brodin) No change from last month, see below:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $33,089.48 |
| February 29, 2020 |  |  |
| Dugan Grant for Specific |  | ($3,400.00) |
| Project |  |  |
| 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 |
| 2/29/2020 |  |  |

Grants Status report; see information in packet. No change from last month.

12. GBOS (Christina Hendrickson) – no report.

13. Other Girdwood Trail Partners Updates: GNSC; GMBA; Girdwild; KMTA; Imagine! Girdwood (GAP)  
GNSC: grooming on going

GMBA: working toward trail work next summer

Girdwild: No report

KMTA: Trail Towns discussion scheduled for MON March 30. Look for details posted on bulletin boards, email, and social media on this.  
Imagine Girdwood (GAP): no report

14. February LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative: Carolyn, Kate and Barb will sort out representation at these meetings.

15. Other: None

**Adjourn 9:00PM**