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**Minutes Draft**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, October 1, 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**

Approval of October 1, 2019 agenda with addition of HLB meeting Sept 10 BB/ZB  
Approval of September 3, 2019 Minutes CH/KS

**Announcements:** None  
**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**Several new attendees who are particularly interested in information on the Girdwood Trails Plan.

**Old Business:**

*Trails Issues:*

* Hand Tram: Hand tram is closed. GVSA is working with Reid Middleton on the design of a fall net for both terminals that will extend the nets to 8’x13’. Designing a new rails system to go between the upper “pulling” platform and the lower “landing” platform. Kyle hopes to have a final design and cost estimate to present to GTC in November.
* Update on Girdwood Trails Plan. Christina Hendrickson has been working on a Scope of Work for term contractor. Some funding secured from HLB and GVSA budgets. USFS has offered in-kind donation of GIS services. Group discusses additional stakeholders to be included. USFS can help with contact with permit holders in the area. Email Christina with additional ideas: [christina.cope@gmail.com](mailto:christina.cope@gmail.com). This project should be determined to be either an independent grassroots effort or designated as a sub-committee of Trails explicitly. As it is a part of the GAP effort, it seems likely to be grassroots.
* Girdwood Trails Management Plan Update Group will meet next on Nov 5 at 6PM in the Girdwood Community Room. Trails Management Plan outlines existing trails in the valley and their maintenance, ownership, etc. Part of the trails management plan is an outline on how to introduce and have new trails approved through the GVSA and MOA.
* Review of past events: End of season project on Deb’s Way & HLB meeting Sept 10  
  GTC members worked on Deb’s way on Sept 11, spreading 2 piles of gravel on the traditionally muddy trail. HLB held an informal discussion with GTC executive committee on September 10. This discussion was an opportunity for the two groups to touch base on the process of trail approval flow chart/update to the Girdwood Trails Management Plan.
* Summer 2019 volunteer appreciation  
  3 projects completed in 2019: June 4 work on the Lower Iditarod trail to repair storm damage; July 2 work on Deb’s Way, Sept 11 work on Deb’s way. In all about 40 volunteers participated in the 3 events. Thank you to all our volunteers. Appreciation items planned for the November 5 GTC meeting.
* Other Trails Issues  
  **Virgin Creek Falls Trail, parking, traffic concerns**. Informal meeting with the neighbors and trail users on September 23. Most neighbors are concerned about speed and traffic; some are additionally concerned about parking. Property owner is developing the last private parcel on the end of the cul de sac. A portion of the trail is in a conservation easement with Greatland Trust. Kate is learning more about what is needed to create a trails easement and improve the trail tread. Issues are ice damming and trail braiding from hikers trying to find good footing.

**Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor Sweeps**: GVSA is working on a formal agreement wit AK DOT to allow GVSA to install moveable bollards and stencils to keep drivers off the pathway and better striping to direct users away from the road at each sweep.

**Pedestrian Flashing Crosswalk Light**: Contractor is awaiting the arrival of flasher equipment and a new light post from the manufacturer. Anticipated installation in November.

* Airport Access update: No change since last meeting. Mike Edgington is scheduling a meeting with DOT to discuss.
* Financial Report (Carolyn Brodin). Financial report included in the meeting packet.  
  Unreserved funds are $24,313.59
* Grants & Projects Status report:
* KMTA trail sign grant: GTC was successful in getting a KMTA grant for signage on the Beaver Pond Trails.
* KMTA Parks and Rec grant for trail building tools ($4290 matching): Pending reimbursement
* RTP Grant status ($75,000) : About $30,000 remaining in the grant, work will extend the improved tread to the end of the Industrial Park section (junction by Ruane) this fall.
* APF grant for Lower INHT ($5,000) – This is for Phase 2, from Ruane junction to the end of Karolius. Need to confirm budget with APF.
* ACF grant for power wheelbarrow ($800). Need to submit copy of the invoice but haven’t received one from the manufacturer yet.

*Updates*

* GNSC: Work completed to clean up trees from winter/spring storms.
* GMBA: Completed uptrack and flow trail on upper section. Work party completed trails last weekend. Flagging is being added for next phase of projects. Changes to master plan to be introduced soon at GTC.
* GBOS (Christina Hendrickson): Received presentation from Sam Daniel regarding addition of parsonage to the site of the Girdwood Chapel; Coffee with Cops starting up again; Discussion of bond proposition for $2.2 bond for community building to house Little Bears; Presentation from Alyeska Resort regarding Nordic Spa, to be completed by Dec 2020; Discussion of local impound lot for large community events.
* October LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative will be determined by GTC executive committee.

**New Business:**

* Request for GTC recommendation for GBOS Resolution of Support for RTP Application for Phase 2 from the Industrial Park to Karolius Rd.

**Other Business:**Peter Zug asks about the access used by USFS to work on replacing step and run with turnpikes and gravel on Winner Creek Trail. This permitted access from the 5K loop to the Winner Creek Trail is being used by bikers/hikers now that it exists, and it may be desirable to construct this connector path. Jason Stancil with USFS replies that this connection is not permanent and will be repaired when the work is complete. Land is HLB and there is not an easement for trail there. USFS thinks this location for a connector trail is likely to cause user conflicts.

Christina Hendrickson attended the Confluence Meeting in Talkeetna last weekend. Much of the discussion was about the impact of the outdoor recreation to the state’s economy, about $4.2% of total GDP.

Comment period is open regarding snow cat and heli skiing in the valley. Comment on this through the DNR website: : <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/hottopics/> Proposed Regulations or on the public notice page: <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=195419>

**Adjourn 8:15PM**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 5, 2019**

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