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**Minutes Final**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, November 6, 2018**

**Alyeska Resort Daylodge 7pm**

**Call to Order** 7:03 PM

November 6, 2018 Agenda approved

October 2, 2018 Minutes Approved

**Announcements**Brian Burnett reminds the group that snowmaking operations are beginning at the ski area. There is no public access until ski operations begin.

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

*Jessica Szelag, KMTA Executive Director:* Jessica introduces herself as new Executive Director of KMTA. KMTA is one of 49 National Heritage Areas designated in the US, under the National Park Service. KMTA is a 501C3 non-profit that grants funds for projects within the area. KMTA was designated in 2009 and has funded $923,000 in projects with $1.5 match. Goals of KMTA in the future include raising awareness of KMTA in the communities, diversifying partnerships, increasing education programs. Grant cycle is twice per year. Current projects in Girdwood include those with GTC (California Creek Bridge, Trail Management Plan), Girdwood Mtn Bike Alliance, and Girdwood Art Institute.

Kurt Hensel, Chugach SW Area Superintendent: Kurt introduces himself as the new Superintendent of Chugach Southwest Area. Lifelong Alaskan, 20+ year ranger with Alaska State Parks, skier at Alyeska and Arctic Valley, with family that comes to Girdwood for sports, activities and programs. Main issue in the Chugach SW area is access and parking for trails and resources as there are private properties flanking the parks.

* Kyle Kelley asks for help in establishing a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the south end of the Beaver Pond Trail, which is on Chugach State Park Land. GTC would like to collaborate on trail improvements on that area, where the trail is often quickly overgrown and tread needs to be improved. Contact Joe Hall and Shawn Cook to formalize this arrangement.
* Michelle Tenny asks park user fee payment methods. Alaska State Parks is working on getting additional electronic fee payment stations. There are technical challenges in areas without electricity or internet connections, however the goal is to move to a cash free system.
* Carolyn Brodin asks about unauthorized trail construction, such as the downhill bike trail that has been built off of Abe’s Trail. Chugach State Park is aware of this, chief ranger for this area will handle it. Send photos with GPS coordinates. There is not a lot of enforcement in this area as manpower is focused on areas of higher density of use outside of Anchorage. email: [kurt.hensel@alaska.gov](mailto:kurt.hensel@alaska.gov)

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 4, 2018 in the Girdwood Community Room at 7:00 pm**

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



**Old Business:**

*Trails Issues:*

* Upcoming Trails Projects:

Lower INHT, California Creek Bridge re-build is pending pile driver to drive piles for new one. This is slated for this year, weather depending. In the spring, work will begin with flying rolling in materials for the bridge reconstruction. Currently the bridge is closed, users may cross at their own risk.

There was some damage to the new trail tread on the Lower INHT with the fall rainstorms. This has shown where additional culverts need to be placed. At the end of the construction season, first course of gravel was added to connect the Industrial Park Access to the Lower INHT. This will help with getting material to the next section slated for work, from the bridge to the Northwest corner of the Girdwood Industrial Park. This will close out the RTP grant Phase 1 section 1.

* Hand Tram Update:   
  Hand tram closed and locked. Sheaves will be removed in spring for repacking and some other maintenance. Will Brennan will make sure the step frame that is stashed under the Crow Creek side of the tram deck is moved early in the spring as the tool box is hard to get in to.
* Other Trails Issues

Trail access from Airport property – no update

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report | | |
| November 6, 2018 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $29,805.39 |
| October 2, 2018 |  |  |
| Reserve for Trail Signs |  | (500.00) |
| Reserve for Forest Fair Fund |  | (80.03) |
| Reserve for Further |  | (7,000.00) |
| Trails Publication Costs |  |  |
| Paid on INHT Work |  | (7,500.00) |
| Balance Unreserved Funds |  | $14,725.36 |
| Note: A/R from KMTA for $2371.00 | |  |

* Grants Status report:
* KMTA grant status ($17,000 bridge construction grant)
* RTP Grant status 2018 about to close out; 2019 $75,000 applied for. ORTAB meets in January to discuss and make recommendation.
* GTC Goals:

Received input from GTC regarding short and longer term projects. Staff is compiling this input and will sort it in to projects for 2019 interns and longer term project goals. There is also input that is more GTC structure and philosophy oriented. This information will be provided to GTC to handle.

Kyle suggests that summer GTC meetings could be trail project work, and could include collaboration with Alaska State parks, Alaska Trail Volunteers, and other organizations.

Additional trail projects brought up at the meeting are: Trail to Eagle Glacier, Trail to Orca Bowl, Improvements to cat track on Sunnyside for summer access, groom waterline behind the school.

Group also discusses some maintenance needs that have arisen with fall storms:

* + Blowdown on INHT on the unimproved trail section between Karolius and Ruane
  + Blowdown on the INHT behind the school
  + Trees down on Stumpy’s Winter Trail

Group also discusses trees hanging over trails, however it is uncommon to do maintenance on these until they fall.

Staff will continue to collect input; a work plan for 2019 will be recommended by staff at the Jan 2019 GTC meeting, based on this input.

* 2019 Trail Work Plan (addressed above also)

Hiring 2 SCA interns for summer is still the plan for 2019.

* Winter grooming training will be scheduled with additional snowfall. Currently 5K has been rolled. 5K is open to all users until additional snowfall allows winter grooming.

*Updates*

* Girdwood Trails Management Plan 2019 update

Work group met earlier this evening and are ready to complete the flow chart for proposing new trails, to present to GTC in December.

* GNSC:  
  Solstice Night Ski on December 21 at the 5K  
  Date TBA Knudson event at the bridges behind Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church
* GMBA:

No update other than item under new business.

* November LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative

Carolyn Brodin

**New Business:**

* GMBA conceptual map of biking flow trails for future construction  
  GMBA presents conceptual map for GTC to review.

2 trails were completed in 2018, they are pending survey before officially opening.

3rd trail was approved, however group decided to delay construction and include in more comprehensive plan proposed now.

Additional trails proposed will add 5 miles of biking terrain to existing 1 mile. In addition to proposing specific trails, with alignments that are fairly set currently, the GMBA is looking for approval for three zones of additional trails. In these areas the alignments are not set yet, and preliminary amount of trails and estimated distances of them are provided on the conceptual map. GMBA is seeking broader scope for the master plan in order to be proactive in fundraising. There will continue to be oversight by GTC and HLB in trail route selection. Goal is to create a stacked trail system in which the easy trails are closer to the trail head, and trails become progressively difficult as they get farther out. The terrain in the area also supports this type of trail difficulty progression.

This project is an opportunity to ground-test the new flow chart for establishing new trails in Girdwood.

Overall the GMBA is seeking input from the community on additional bike trails similar to those built this summer to meet the growing demand for bike terrain. Bike trails will draft bike traffic off the Nordic trail and off the Winner Creek Trail as those trails meet the bikers’ needs. A comprehensive plan will improve trail user experience for all users of the trails.

Comments from GTC at this meeting are:

* + Concern about approving a master plan without known alignments of potentially 10 additional trails in 3 zones.
  + Concern of density/overbuilding/spider webbing of area
  + Concern of pushing out trail users who seek primitive trail use areas
  + Designation of “bike park”
  + Request that Winner Creek Trail and Cat Trail are overlaid on the conceptual trail map.
  + Request showing distances from existing trails to proposed trails.
  + Collaborate with USFS on connectivity to Winner Creek Trail.
  + Suggest that there are principles attached to the conceptual master plan: how GTC will remain involved in future trail alignment, keeping trails out of the viewshed of each other and existing trails.
  + Consider signage and use of trails as many trail users in this area are not familiar with the trail system.
  + Several attending the meeting state that they enjoy the ones that were built this summer.

GMBA will incorporate comments and will come back to GTC in January. They will also attend LUC and GBOS in January.

* GTC officer elections in January, 2019.

Meeting will be held January 8 to avoid New Years Day holiday.

**Other Business**

None

**Meeting adjourn 9:20PM**