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**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

**Call to Order 7PM Kate Sandberg**

Carolyn Brodin is out of town.

Reminder: November 6th meetings will be held at the USFS station conference room as the community room will be used for election. 6PM Girdwood Trails Management Plan Update meeting & 7PM Regular Trails Meeting. Thank you USFS and Will Brennan for providing space and managing the building for us.

Approval of October 2, 2018 Agenda Diana Livingston/Barb Crews 11-0

with addition of update on HLBAC meeting, which was held on 9.12.18

Approval of September 4, 2018 Minutes Diana Livingston/Nick Georgelos 11-0

**Announcements**

Girdwood Trails Committee plans to apply for a 2019 RTP grant to work on Phase 1, section 2 of the Girdwood Lower Iditarod National Historic Trail. Section 2 will span approximately 3/4 mile from the California Creek Bridge to the Northeast corner of the Industrial Park (Ruane/AWWU corner). Address comments or concerns to staff: kelleykt@muni.org or tylerms@muni.org.

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

None

**Old Business:**

*Trails Issues:*

* Upcoming Trails Projects:

California Creek Bridge re-build. GTC received grant funding from KMTA for approximately $17,000 to rebuild the bridge on the lower part of the INHT. Hoping to drive piles in the next 2 weeks, and Kyle’s working on placing a wood order with SBS and Builder’s Choice. Alpine Air will donate flight time to bring in materials and remove old bridge. Goal is to complete the project this year, weather permitting. GTC will be notified of need for volunteers once schedule is confirmed. In the meantime, there is a temporary fix on the existing bridge.

* 2019 RTP Grant cycle

RTP grant applications are due 10/15/18. As previously discussed, staff is writing application for work on the Lower INHT. This year the maximum that can be applied for is $75,000. This is a 90/10 matching grant.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at USFS Glacier Ranger District Conference Room at 7:00 pm**

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



GTC discussion and vote on 2019 Lower INHT Phase 1, Section 2 grant application.

Application is for $75,000, paired with remaining funds from 2018 grant, GTC can complete the trail segment within the Girdwood Industrial Park, to the trail class required by the USFS for a National Historic Trail.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee approves application for an RTP grant @ $75,000 for work on the Girdwood Lower Iditarod National Historic Trail, phase 1, section 2.

Motion by Diana Livingston, 2nd by Barb Crews
11 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstain

Motion carries

GTC discussion and vote on letter of support for USFS Winner Creek Trail grant projects.

USFS is also applying for an RTP grant in this cycle. Will Brennan presents that the project for this grant cycle is the first 2.25 miles of the Upper Winner Creek Trail. This trail is a spur from the very popular Winner Creek Trail, and is underutilized, especially considering the number of hikers on the main trail. The first 2.25 miles have become overgrown since the trail was improved 10 years ago. Trail will remain at the current intended Class 2. Additionally, a segment of the trail will be rerouted to preserve the cabin ruins archeological site. This was attempted in the last trail build, but that trail is mostly unused by hikers because it involves slippery uphill/downhill step-n-run with treated boards. Hikers bypass by walking through the ruins on muddy trail. New re-route will be on middle ground, between the current re-route and the ruins. Removal of step-n-run on this section and other muddy sections will involve improved drainage, locally sourced gravel turnpikes encased in locally sourced wood cribs. The appearance and function will be more sustainable and in keeping with the Class 2 primitive trail. USFS requests a letter of support for the project, to be included in their grant application.

Sherry Dugan asks if there will be improvements to water crossings. Will Brennan answers that the crossings on the early part of the trail are within the alluvial fan, and the location of water is different every year. There are no plans to add bridges or ropes to help people cross the fallen trees that help hikers across. The upper crossing of the waterfall area is outside of the scope of this project location, but also it is unlikely that a bridge or assistance will be added in the future as this is part of the primitive aspect of this trail.

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian states that she does not support changing the trail class from the existing class. She’d like to see a map of the area and the draft grant application with project details, and requests that these types of documents be provided to GTC prior to meetings when there is a request for support from GTC (from any party). She does not support reroute, and thinks that maintenance activities and re-route activities are different types of activities that require different considerations. Group discusses that the work will produce a trail still within Class 2, the majority of the work is rehabilitation back to that level.

Motion:
Girdwood Trails Committee moves to support the USFS RTP grant project for maintenance and re-route of a section of the trail to protect archeological site as presented.

Motion by Nick Georgelos, 2nd by Diana Livingston

9 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstaining

Motion carries

In preparation for this request, Kate Sandberg has drafted a letter for Carolyn Brodin to sign, if approved by the GTC. Kate reads the letter to the Girdwood Trails Committee.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve the letter of support for the USFS to submit as part of their Recreation Trails Grant application as written.

Motion by Nick Georgelos, 2nd by Diana Livingston
5 in favor, 2 opposed, 4 abstaining

Motion carries.

* Hand Tram Update

Hand tram is working well, there will be an inspection this week, prior to the Girdwood Trail Marathon, which is on Saturday. Current rope has been in place for 1 ½ years. GTC has invested $15,000 in the cart this year, and this is paying off with less maintenance and fewer closures, as well as the rope lasting better.

Hand tram will close for the season with the first hard freeze and will re-open in the spring. Although the tram cart will stay on site, the sheaves will be removed, bearings will be repacked and sealed, also the groove guiding the rope may be reworked to improve how the rope glides.

* Other Trails Issues

Trail access from Airport property: Rumor that today was the last day of trucking material out of the new hangar site. There is gravel on site, likely to be used for the apron. No known change to plan for road to route around the back side of the hangar.

Deb’s Way, neighbor request for addition of gravel to trail: This topic will be covered at the end of the meeting, when group discusses creating a list of projects for 2019 and beyond. Kyle is hoping to have approval from GTC to hire 2 interns from SCA to work on trail projects next summer, to get ahead of deferred maintenance and trail work.

Trail maps: Group discusses that existing maps could use updating, this has been discussed previously. Also, maps of each trail are needed for the Girdwood Trails Management Plan. Group discusses hiring a graphic designer to help with maps. Nick Georgelos to provide names of designers who may be able to assist to Kate Sandberg. Item to stay on the agenda for GTC to consider allocating funds for this project in the future.

* Financial Report (Diana Livingston)

Last report was in May. Since then a lot of activity with payments for trail work and reimbursements from grants. Pending reimbursement from KMTA of $2,371 for California Creek Bridge engineering & design. This grant was closed out today.

Reserve fund from a $500.00 donation from the Forest Fair of $80.03 is discussed. This was to fund a party celebrating a new cart for the hand tram. Funds were spent on promotional materials, etc. The party did not occur as there were issues with the cart. These funds could be reallocated to another event or project. Margaret states that KMTA would like to co-host an event sometime to highlight the partnership on projects in Girdwood.

$7000 in reserve for trails publication costs is funding to continue to update the Girdwood Trails Management Plan document. This requires a graphic designer with InDesign program.

$1000 donation was received this spring with the stated intent that it be used to offset additional fees incurred by the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club in design of the new Forest Loop Trail. The statement shows the cash in, cash out of these funds is included in the $52,693. Diana clarified that the $1000 donation was never part of GTC funds, but rather stayed with Girdwood Inc. in another fund because of the concerns discussed at the May 1, 2018 GTC meeting.

Cash in from APF is the Anchorage Park Foundation grant reimbursement on the Lower INHT.

Cash in from State of Alaska is RTP grant reimbursement, also on Lower INHT.

In essence, with donations and in-kind contributions, GTC has managed trail project on Lower INHT with minimal outlay. Kyle states that the funds currently in the GTC Girdwood Inc Account are still needed to leverage for 2019 RTP grant projects and the California Creek Bridge rebuild.

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| Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report |
| October 2, 2018 |  |  |
| Account with Girdwood Inc. |  | $22,811.72 |
| May 1, 2018 |  |  |
| Reserve for Trail Signs |  |  (500.00) |
| Reserve for Forest Fair Fund |  |  (80.03) |
| Reserve for Further |  |  (7,000.00) |
| Trails Publication Costs |  |  |
| Cash in - Donation |  |  1,000.00  |
| Cash in - APF |  |  16,417.88  |
| Cash in - State of Alaska |  |  42,269.06  |
| Cash out and Pending |  |  (52,693.27) |
| Balance Unreserved Funds |  | $22,225.36 |

* Grants Status report:
* KMTA grant status (bridge design & bridge construction grants):
Bridge Design grant was closed today and $2371 reimbursement has been requested.

$17,000 new grant for the bridge construction approved.

* RTP Grant status (2018 and 2019)

$50,000 grant is 2018 nearly closed out

$75,000 grant application due 10/15, we should know in Dec/Jan if this is approved.

* Future grant project ideas (signage at Crow Creek road trailheads, tram partnership fund)

This also falls under project list for the future.

*Updates*

* Lower Iditarod Trail Update:

Previously discussed as this relates to the California Creek Trail Bridge and the RTP grants from 2018 and grant application proposed for 2019.

* Girdwood Trails Management Plan 2019 update:

Group met earlier this evening to edit a flow chart that explains the steps needed to present and gain approval for new trail alignments in the Girdwood Valley. Once the group has completed draft, they will share it with USFS for their input.

* GNSC: No report
* GMBA:

Group has completed one of the three trails approved previously, this trail needs to be surveyed for HLB approval to open it formally. GMBA hopes to have the trail open soon, and they will announce on social media etc. They request that people come and ride the new trail to help pack it in.

The second trail is about 2/3 complete. GMBA hopes to continue work through October, weather permitting.

The third trail is flagged.

GMBA is ready to initiate pursuing approval for additional trails in the 5K Loop Area for future development. They will provide a map of conceptual trail alignments for the GTC meeting in November and request to be added to the November GTC agenda under new business. Kate Sandberg to coordinate getting the word out about this presentation within the community.

* HLBAC meeting on 9/12/18:

Carolyn Brodin presented to HLB Advisory Committee during the meeting that was held in Girdwood in September. She addressed the ongoing projects, including Lower INHT, and provided information on the Forest Loop Trail. A future goal with HLB is to get easements for all trails on HLB land. She also discussed needed work on Virgin Creek Trail and the Lower INHT, phase 3.

* October LUC/GBOS Meeting Representative: Kate Sandberg, Diana Livingston and Barb Crews will coordinate attendance at this month’s meetings.

**New Business:**

* Goals for next few years:

GTC members to brainstorm and email suggestions to Margaret and/or Kate to compile a list:
tylerms@muni.org; kesandberg@gmail.com

* 2019 Trail Work Plan:
This is a more specific list of projects to use as a punchlist for projects in 2019. Kyle would like to hire 2 SCA interns to help guide projects, both working on their own and also with volunteers.
GTC can establish projects and timeline, including Deb’s Way, as previously discussed.

**Other Business**

* Staff has been clearing deadfall trees as we hear about them. Let us know if you are aware of trees that need to be cleared. Barb and Paul Crews offer assistance on these projects. Currently staff is handling these as time/weather allow, however with a work plan set, it will be more possible to recruit and use volunteers for these and other maintenance projects.

Adjourn: 8:20PM