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**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, September 4, 2018**

**Girdwood Community Room 7pm**

**Call to Order 7:05PM Carolyn Brodin, Chair**   
36 people sign in

Carolyn explains that the agenda is short in order to discuss the trail report recommendations and amendments fully.

September 4, 2018 Agenda approved

August 14, 2018 Minutes approved

**Announcements**

Kyle Kelley announces that staff has applied for a KMTA grant to rebuild the California Creek bridge on the Lower INHT. Group will review grants Sept 15.

Submitting RTP grant for Phase 2, section 1 of the Lower INHT. This application is due Oct 15.

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**

Roundtable introductions.

**Old Business:**

* Review and vote on the Forest Loop Multi-Use Trail recommendation from sub-committee

Eryn Boone provides a brief introduction to the group of the sub-committee’s work over the summer.

Group discusses that the subcommittee put a great deal of time and effort in to the report, and discuss the possibility of accepting it as presented. Some suggest that the amendments proposed at this meeting are public comments instead, and should go forward with the document to HLB.

Group refers to the minutes from August 2018, when it was discussed that the GTC members should take the time to read the report and offer amendments to it for consideration at this meeting, and a motion was passed to give GTC members the opportunity to send in amendments to be published prior to this meeting. GBOS member Mike Edgington states that he would be uncomfortable voting on this at the September GBOS meeting without reviewing proposed amendments. It is noted that some of the amendments have come from a member of the subcommittee.

This report will be a guiding document for trail construction. Group agrees to review the amendments one by one, vote on them, and then vote on the report as a whole. Rationale for each was included when amendments were submitted, and are available in the Amendment document in full.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 2, 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>



Individual who recommended the amendments are noted with each amendment:

BRY Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian SD Shirley Durtschi  
EH Elaine Halverson JRY Julie Raymond-Yakoubian  
PC Paul Crews

**Proposed Amendment #1 (BRY)**Implementation (page 2 of report)  
In the “Implementation” section of the Subcommittee Report to Trails Committee regarding the Forest Loop, strike the first sentence of the first bullet.  
In favor: 4; Opposed: 17; abstain: 4  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #2 (SD)**Strategies #2 (page 3 of report)  
Change language regarding minimization of viewshed to Stumpy’s Historical Trail from "avoid when possible" to “eliminate all impact from the Forest Loop on the Stumpy's Trail at all points.  
In favor: 3; Opposed: 15; abstain: 4  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #3 (BRY)**various locations in the specification document (sections A,C,E, K) and the TMO  
The trailbed width should be reduced to 8 feet maximum. The overall trail clearing width would thus be reduced to 12 feet maximum (which matches foot-for-foot the slight narrowing in trailbed).  
In favor: 5; Opposed: 14; abstain: 4  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #4 (EH)**Location unspecifiedAmend the proposed hardened trail surface width to 6’ with a maximum clearing of 10’  
In favor: 5; Opposed: 17; abstain: 5  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #5 (SD)**Trail Specifications, section E (page 4 of report)The use of gravel is not necessary. A new trail in this Girdwood Rainforest does not require gravel [Period]. Bark chip from the downed trees will be sufficient to hard pack the trail for multi-use. (For example, Sitka, Alaska has beautiful rain forest trails using bark chip from downed trees.)  
In favor: 2; Opposed: 19; abstain: 6  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #6 (JRY)**Trail Specification, Section E (page 4 of report)Add: “No gravel borrows shall be developed in the project area.”  
In favor: 9; Opposed: 17; abstain: 3  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #7 (BRY)**Location: a stand-alone amendment, though other sections of the Specifications plan (e.g. Section E) would need to be modified accordingly as a result All gravel used for this project will be brought in from off-site.  
In favor: 6; Opposed: 18; abstain: 3  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #8 (PC)**Trail Specification, Section E (page 4 of report)Add/Change language in Section E as follows in blue:  
Gravel used to construct the trail prism shall be extracted from beneath the trail within the approved 14 foot clearing limits. There may be areas where adequate gravel is not available beneath the maximum targeted trail/clearing limit (10’/14’).  Gravel may need to be imported if the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club (GNSC) contractor discovers more gravel is necessary to build the trail to these specifications. All gravel extraction shall be obtained in a manner that minimizes forest disturbance. (Note: Extracting gravel from pits outside the 14’ wide clearing limit and/or widening the trail are recognized as methods which disturb the forest).   Methods/solutions for obtaining gravel from other than beneath the 10’/14’ trail corridor must be approved by the Project Manager and the land owner (or designated third party overseer.) Mining gravel from the project area outside the 14 foot clearing limit /trail corridor should only occur if an adequate quantity of gravel from beneath the 14 foot clearing limit is absolutely not available within a reasonable distance of the final deposition location of the additional required gravel. If gravel is extracted outside the 14 foot clearing limit the primary method should be by widening the clearing /excavation limit to a maximum width of 20 feet for short distances only at locations where no additional trees would be required to be removed. The development of any remote extraction sites (gravel pits) within the project area is strongly discouraged. Any and all approved extraction sites must be satisfactorily closed and covered with local organic materials upon job completion. The planting of native trees upon extraction sites (gravel pits) is expected. Access routes to ~~all~~ any extraction sites must be reconditioned to a natural state as much as possible. Gravel utilized to construct the Arlberg access route from the paved bike path to the base of Crocket hill shall be imported from outside the project area. Gravel mined from HLB land shall not be utilized off HLB land.  
In favor: 18; Opposed: 6; abstain: 3  
**Amendment passes**

**Proposed Amendment #9 (BRY)**Trail Specification, Section E (page 4 of report)In no cases will trees be felled along the alignment in areas where the trail is expanded for gravel sourcing.  
Amendment Rescinded by BRY as amendment 8 resolves this issue

**Proposed Amendment #10 (BRY)**Trail Specification, Section E (page 4 of report)Sourcing for gravel outside the 14 foot clearing width, if conducted, will only exceed that clearing width by 3 feet on each side of the trail at a maximum.  
Amendment Rescinded by BRY as amendment 8 resolves this issue

**Proposed Amendment #11 (EH)**Trail Specification, Section E (page 4 of report)  
Insert: “located within the 14’ wide allowable clearance and” after “Any and all approved extraction sites must be” to create this sentence: Any and all approved extraction sites must be located within the 14’ wide allowable clearance and satisfactorily closed and covered with local organic materials upon job completion.  
In favor: 7; Opposed: 16; abstain: 4  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #12 (PC)**Trail Specification, Section L (page 5 of report)  
Replace all of current language in section L with this:  
L Permanent trail rest areas may be constructed on either side of the pathway. Such rest areas may serve as equipment pull outs or passing areas during trail constructions. Such rest areas shall not expand the width of the hardened trail surface beyond a total hardened surface of 15 feet and may not exceed 15 feet in length. No additional trees may be cut to construct rest areas. Any permanent rest areas must be covered with a thin layer of native topsoil before job completion. Distances between such rest areas may not be less than 600 feet. Temporary equipment pullouts or turn around locations shall be allowed, however, the forest floor at all temporary pullouts or turn around locations must be protected with ground protection mats.  
In favor: 8; Opposed: 14; abstain: 4  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #13 (EH)**Trail Specification, Section L (page 5 of report)Add “There shall be no more than two trail rest areas.” after the first sentence.   
In favor: 5; Opposed: 16; abstain: 3  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #14 (JRY)**Trail Specification, Section L (page 5 of report)Add: Any short‐term rest areas which are created for this trail (during construction for equipment) shall involve no felling of trees. Additionally, no long‐term rest areas (for people or equipment) will be created for this trail.  
In favor: 6; Opposed: 16; abstain: 3  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #15 (BRY)**Trail Specification, Section L (page 5 of report)Any short or long-term rest areas which are maintained for this trail (short-term: during construction for equipment; long-term: rustic rest areas for trail users) shall be constrained in the following ways: 1) no trees will be felled to create these areas, 2) a maximum of 4 total long-term rest areas will be built, and 3) the long-term rest areas shall be small sitting areas, no more than 15 feet in length, next to the trail alignment, and will be constructed by the completion of the trail's construction period.  
In favor: 5; Opposed: 18; abstain: 3  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #16 (BRY)**Trail Specification, Section N (page 5 of report)Correct Typo - the word “oversee” is supposed to be “overseer.”  
Amendment Rescinded by BRY

**Proposed Amendment #17 (SD)**Trail Specification, Section O (page 5 of report)Section 0 states only qualified and experienced contractors shall be considered for this project. The GTC trails must be held to this statement. The services of a Professional Trail Builders Association Certified contractors is available in Alaska. There are four PTBA Certified Trail Builders in the Anchorage/ Palmer Area: Mike Shields, Ptarmigan Trails, Interior Trails, Happy Trails, Trailwerx.  
In favor: 2; Opposed: 17; abstain: 9  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #18 (BRY)**Specifications document, the Alignment Map, and the TMO document.“The access route behind the church (i.e. the somewhat straight line indicated on the current alignment which heads into the loops from the cleared easement corridor) should be deleted from this trail proposal. It should be considered as a stand-alone trail proposal at a later date if it is desired, especially after landowner access issues are clarified publicly and a plan to assess concerns related to construction are presented to the public.”  
In favor: 9; Opposed: 15; abstain: 4  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #19 (EH)**Specifications document, the Alignment Map, and the TMO document  
Amend the proposed route by removing the section of proposed trail that goes from the church area up to the proposed loops.   
In favor: 9; Opposed: 15; abstain: 4  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #20 (BRY)**To be placed at the beginning of the Specifications Document, or before the most appropriate section During on-the-ground siting of the precise trail alignment, extra care will be taken to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the viewshed for a person standing on one part of the trail will not involve seeing trailbed and trail clearings along other portions of the trail.  
In favor: 6; Opposed: 16; abstain: 4  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #21 (BRY)**to be placed at the beginning of the Specifications Document, or before the most appropriate section During on-the-ground siting of the precise trail alignment, if viewshed conflicts with Stumpy's Trail are discovered, slight re-routing of the new trail will occur to avoid those.  
In favor: 8; Opposed: 16; abstain: 4  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #22 (BRY)**to be placed at the beginning of the Specifications Document, or before the most appropriate section Where the trail segments come together, extra care will be taken regarding trail siting, and efforts will be made here to minimize tree cutting, trailbed width, and trail clearing width to ensure that the confluence does not create a de-forested aesthetic.  
In favor: 13; Opposed: 10; abstain: 4  
**Amendment passes**

**Proposed Amendment #23 (BRY)**Location unspecifiedTo the maximum extent possible, trail will avoid going through kettle features.  
In favor: 8; Opposed: 16; abstain: 4  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #24 (BRY)**to be placed in the TMO form, under Designed Use, (page 7 of the report) The “Designed Use” box in the TMO which should be checked should be the last one, not the cross-country ski box. It should be checked and the description should be “Multi-use trail (uses specified in managed uses section).”  
In favor: 16; Opposed: 6; abstain: 4  
**Amendment passes**

**Proposed amendment #25 (EH)**to be placed in the TMO form, under Managed Use, Seasons (page 8 of the report) The dates should be year round for all users (hiker/pedestrian, bicycle, cross-country ski, and ski-joringIn favor: 16; Opposed: 5; abstain: 6  
**Amendment passes**

**Proposed Amendment #26 (EH)**to be placed in the TMO form, under Prohibited Use, (page 8 of the report) Add an X on “snowmobile” under prohibited use  
In favor: 21; Opposed: 1; abstain: 4  
**Amendment passes**

**Proposed Amendment #27 (BRY)**to be placed in the TMO form, Trail Management Objective Form Instructions (page 9 of the report)

Add: This is a multi-use trail through four seasons. Walkers, snowshoers, bikers, and skiers will be allowed on the trail through all four seasons.  
In favor: 15; Opposed: 6; abstain: 4  
**Amendment passes**

**Proposed Amendment #28 (BRY)**to be placed in the TMO form, under Special Considerations, (page 8 of the report) The TMO should check the box “Cultural Resources Present”  
In favor: 6; Opposed: 16; abstain: 6  
Amendment fails

**Proposed Amendment #29 (BRY)**to be placed in the TMO form, Trail Management Objective Form Instructions (page 9 of the report) The “Forest Loop Trail Specifications” document and the Alignment Map should be referenced in the last page text box (Remarks/Reference Information) – e.g. Specification parameters for this trail's design, alignment, and construction are detailed in a “Forest Loop Trail Specifications” document, Alignment Map, and a “Subcommittee Report to Trails Committee regarding the Forest Loop” document approved by the Girdwood Trails Committee on X date and Girdwood Board of Supervisors on X date.  
In favor: 12; Opposed: 10; abstain: 6  
**Amendment passes**

**Motion:**Girdwood Trails Committee moves to recommend to the Girdwood Board of Supervisors, the Girdwood Multi-Use Trail Subcommittee’s Report, including Goals and Objectives, Forest Loop Trail Specifications, Map of Alignment dated August 10, 2018, and Trail Management Objectives with approved amendments #8, #22, #24, #25, #26, #27 and #29 and with the proposed agreement for how GTC and the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club shall move forward in a collaborative manner.

Motion by Mike Edgington, 2nd by Diana Livingston  
19 in favor, 4 opposed, 7 abstain  
**Motion carries**

**Other Business**

* Meeting on November 6, 2018: Girdwood Community Room is not available due to State of Alaska Elections, Margaret is seeking space at the USFS for this date.

**Meeting adjourned 8:30PM**