



Minutes Final

Girdwood Trails Committee Regular Meeting

Tuesday, Aug 1, 2023 7:00PM

Girdwood Trails Committee meetings are taking place on Teams with in-person attendance at the Girdwood Community Room, 250 Egloff Rd.

GTC Voting members are defined as any person eighteen (18) years of age or older who has attended one or more Trails Committee meetings in the last 12 months, and is:

- a) a current resident and/or property owner, business owner or designated representative of a non-profit association; and
- b) who has resided in, owned property in, owned a business located in, or operated as a non-profit association for the preceding ninety (90) days or longer in Girdwood Valley.

Attendance is verified through a sign-in sheet available at each meeting, or equivalent process.

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 Code 1.25 - Public Meetings.

The Girdwood Trails Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

Call to Order 7:03PM Barb Crews, Chair

Approval of Aug 1 2023 meeting agenda Kalie Harrison/Brian Burnett
Approval of May 2 meeting minutes Biran Burnett/Deb Essex

Announcements & Presentations:

Update on projects from Alaska Trails (Mariyam Medovaya): For the 2024 State Capital Budget, AK Trails proposed 14 projects, of which 3 have been funded. All the funded trails are in Chugach State Park. Thanks to all who wrote to their legislators on behalf of these projects. Strong sponsorship from local legislators is key in getting trail projects approved.

More information is available on the Alaska Trails website: [Funding for the ALT | Alaska Trails \(alaska-trails.org\)](https://alaska-trails.org)

Introductions: All new/returning attendees are asked to introduce themselves, members attending via phone anonymously, and members attending jointly via one computer so that attendance is accurate: None. Attendance will be taken from sign in and Teams roster.

Public Comment (3 minutes each):

Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm Heritage Area (KMTA) has events:

KTMA Trail Challenge now thru Sept 30: [KMTA Trail Challenge | KMTA \(kmtacorridor.org\)](https://kmta.kmtacorridor.org)

Mineshaft Grinder Aug 12 in Hope has space for registration and volunteers: [Mineshaft Grinder | KMTA \(kmtacorridor.org\)](https://kmta.kmtacorridor.org)

Old Business:

1. Update on Girdwood Trails Plan approval process

Girdwood Parks and Rec and Huddle AK are working on incorporating accepted suggestions from the preapplication meeting into the plan. There were comments related to parking/trailhead project language in the plan that are recommended to be in alignment with other plans. Also planning recommended guidance in the trails plan document about what happens at the end of the intended life of the plan, as this 5-10 year guiding document is likely to be in use longer than that.

Planning and zoning full application will be submitted by August 28 deadline, which puts the item on Planning and Zoning calendar for early November. After that, the plan will go to the Assembly for approval

2. Consider Community Trails Info message for upcoming month to be shared on social media

Let parks and rec know about work that needs to be done on trails

3. Review of work parties summer 2023: June 6 and Friends of Girdwood Trails: Trails Tuesdays/Thursdays

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- THU Aug 3 Friends of Girdwood Trails Completion of tread work on Deb's Way. Meet at end of Banff Circle at 6PM. Email friendsofgirdwoodtrails@gmail.com for information
- Next week date and time TBA assist with footers for new bridge on Beaver Pond Trail. Contact Kyle Kelley or Paul Crews for information.
- Next week and following dates and time TBA assist with clean up after brushing on Beaver Pond Trail. Contact Kyle Kelley for information.

Various groups have been working on trails projects throughout the summer, including independent local volunteers, church groups, our parks caretakers, and hired groups working for AK Trails.

2023 Trails Project list will be added to the meeting packet.

Girdwood Trails Committee Agendas and minutes are available on line: www.muni.org/gtc

GTC Trail Work Party June 6 completed a lot of work on the Crow Creek Road end of the Beaver Pond Trail. This was in conjunction with the 3 week hired crew that came via Alaska Trails, which focused on the Bird/Gird end of the Beaver Pond Trail. Work continues in this area, a church group helped last week with placement of a bridge on the lower part of Abes Trail, additional work is planned there. Summer Caretakers replaced a bridge on Beaver Pond Trail already and a second is planned for construction next week with Paul Crews' help. Beaver Pond Trail brushing next week and the week following by Summer Parks Caretakers, volunteers would be helpful with raking and tidying up the trail after the brushing.

Friends of Girdwood Trails has been holding Trail Tuesdays/Trail Thursday events throughout June and July and plans to continue thru September. Events are publicized on the Girdwood Facebook page by Friends of Girdwood Trails or sign up for email information: friendsofgirdwoodtrails@gmail.com. Upcoming projects are completion of improvements of Deb's Way this THU. Last week the group had 18 volunteers and moved a bunch of gravel. Volunteers with wheelbarrows are needed this THU.

Most of the volunteer work this summer can be used as match for the KMTA grant that GTC was awarded this spring. Funds went to work on the Beaver Pond Trail with AK Trails Crew but most Girdwood trails were listed on the work project list.

4. Update of Trail maps

Peter Briggs with Corvus Designs is working on a draft. Once received, Parks and Rec will meet with the map subcommittee and they'll work on insets and messaging.

New Business:

5. Winner Creek Trail Bridge at Glacier Creek Alternatives Analysis/Design Criteria Report and 35% design for review and approval

Holly Spoth-Torres, Huddle AK; Ellen Hamel, Engineer with Reid Middleton; Todd Jacobson, TBC attend to present.

GTC has been working on the bridge now for several years. Staff is working closely with USFS, who manage the trail on both sides of the former hand tram site and are expected to take over operation and management of the bridge once it's complete.

Drawings in the packet show the alignment compared to existing alignment and show the relative heights of the handrail, supports, etc. Interpretive site is planned for the Crow Creek side; interpretive signs will likely be a GTC project, similar to others that GTC members have collaborated on. This item will be old business in September and project will also be presented to LUC and GBOS in August and September.

Project is designed to be operational in winter as well as summer. Material and spacing of decking is designed for quick runoff/melting although it would collect snow. Paul Crews recommends storage for equipment within the interpretive shelter. Kyle will suggest that to USFS.

Other:

6. Ongoing Trails Issues for update:

- Outreach to vendors produced several permits for summer 2023 that we haven't had in the past.
- Other Trails Issues

Hawkweed on the Virgin Creek Falls Trail. Margaret will coordinate with invasive weeds contractor as this cannot be pulled.

No parking signs have been added to Virgin Creek cul de sac to help mitigate impact of trailhead on neighbors.

Erosion on the east abutment of Glacier Creek Bridge/Pedestrian bridge. DOT is aware of the situation and is working on permitting to fix the issue.

7. Monthly LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives: LUC & GBOS

8. Written Reports should be submitted to include in meeting packet

**Adjourn
8PM**