



Minutes Final
Girdwood Trails Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 7, 2021 7:00PM

Girdwood Trails Committee meetings are taking place on Teams thru March 2022.

Call to Order 7:05PM Carolyn Brodin, Chair

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| Approval of December 7, 2021 agenda | Barb Crews/Kalie Harrison |
| Approval of November 2 2021 minutes | Barb Crews/Kalie Harrison |
| Approval of Nov 16 SM Minutes | Barb Crews/Kalie Harrison |
| Approval of Nov 30 SM Minutes | Barb Crews/Kalie Harrison |

Announcements & Presentations: None

Introductions: New/Returning members eligible to vote at the next meeting are:
Rorie Hammel, Steve Delatush, Mandy Hawes

Public Comment (3 minutes each):

Eric Tiexmen: Supports discussion at Jan meeting of winter biking pump track in Moose Meadows.
Briana Sullivan: Bring Back the Light event 5PM on Dec 19

Old Business:

1. Discussion of draft Girdwood Trails Master Plan, reviewing recommendations starting at TH 5, max 1.5 hours.

TH5: Karolius Trailhead
NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Motion:
TH5: GTC Moves to approve the recommendation as presented
Motion by Deb Essex, 2nd by Matt Wedeking
Poll: 27 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstain
Chat: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain
Voice: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain
Total: 41 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstain
Motion carries

TH6: Girdwood Town Center Trailhead Improvements- with restroom
NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Motion:
TH6: GTC Moves to approve the recommendation as presented
Motion by Matt Wedeking, 2nd by Deb Essex
Poll: 26 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstain
Chat: 8 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstain
Voice: 4 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstain
Total: 38 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstain
Motion carries

Next Regular Meeting: January 4, 2022

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

TH8: Beaver Pond Trailhead

NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Motion:

TH8: GTC Moves to approve the recommendation as presented

Motion by Deb Essex, 2nd by Brian Burnett

Poll: 28 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstain

Chat: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Voice: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Total: 37 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstain

Motion carries

TH9: Girdwood PreK-8 School Parking-Parking Agreement

NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Motion:

TH9: GTC Moves to approve the recommendation as presented

Motion by Matt Wedeking, 2nd by Deb Essex

Poll: 29 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstain

Chat: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Voice: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Total: 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstain

Motion carries

TH10: Alyeska Resort Parking Agreement

NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

HLB Representative states that there should be review of review parking study. Later this information is included in the meeting chat.

When considering Municipal code requirements for this area near the hotel, Alyeska currently has 732 parking spaces, which meets the current and proposed code-required parking for the site (i.e., the addition of the Nordic day spa and its attached bistro would increase the spaces required by Municipal code to 675 parking spaces, which is 57 fewer than the 732 spaces provided).

Motion:

TH10: GTC Moves to approve the recommendation as presented

Motion by Deb Essex, 2nd by Ryan Hutchins-Cabibi

Poll: 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstain

Chat: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Voice: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Total: 40 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstain

Motion carries

TH11: Arlberg Parking Expansion

NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Discussion related to likely direction of expansion and concern for wetlands in the area.

Motion:

TH11: GTC Moves to approve the recommendation as presented

Motion by Matt Wedeking, 2nd by Deb Essex

Poll: 27 in favor, 3 opposed, 5 abstain

Chat: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Voice: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Total: 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstain

Motion carries

TH12: Middle Iditarod

NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Motion:

TH12: GTC Moves to approve the recommendation as presented

Motion by Deb Essex, 2nd by Matt Wedeking

Poll: 33 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstain

Chat: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Voice: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Total: 43 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstain

Motion carries

TH13: Winner Creek Gorge Trailhead

NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

It is noted that this is USFS management responsibility. Parking added some years ago by USFS is at capacity currently.

Motion:

TH13: GTC Moves to approve the recommendation as presented

Motion by Matt Wedeking, 2nd by Deb Essex

Poll: 29 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstain

Chat: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Voice: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Total: 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstain

Motion carries

TH 3: Lower Valley Trailhead

CHANGE RECOMMENDED – Remove this trailhead from the plan.

Comments indicated there was not public support for this trailhead.

HLB representative encourages group to leave this in the plan as it provides more options for parking and keeps pedestrians from needing to cross Alyeska Highway to access trails. Others note that sight lines for cars accessing Alyeska Highway and topography of the area are not necessarily conducive to parking in this location, and there is better parking location on the other side of the highway on USFS lot and Ak RR depot site.

Motion:

TH3: GTC Moves to approve the recommendation to remove this trailhead from the plan as presented

Motion by Deb Essex, 2nd by Briana Sullivan

Poll: 17 in favor, 12 opposed, 7 abstain

Chat: 6 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstain

Voice: 3 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstain

Total: 26 in favor, 15 opposed, 7 abstain

Motion carries

TH7: Moose Meadows Trailhead Improvements

NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Ensure that this trailhead is labeled correctly as Moose Meadows Trailhead.

Group discusses that location of entry/exit must be addressed with neighbors.

Motion:

TH13: GTC Moves to approve the recommendation as presented

Motion by Matt Wedeking, 2nd by Deb Essex

Poll: 29 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstain

Chat: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Voice: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Total: 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstain

Motion carries

Girdwood Cemetery

CHANGE RECOMMENDED - ADD a trailhead at the Girdwood Cemetery and a discussion about how the proposed cemetery trails and cemetery phasing plan align with the trail network.

Group discusses that Cemetery plan includes a bridge across California Creek and trails for public use.

Motion:

GTC Moves to approve the recommendation to add a trailhead to the Girdwood Cemetery as presented.

Motion by Ben Kohler, 2nd by Deb Essex

Poll: 29 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstain

Chat: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Voice: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Total: 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstain

Motion carries

2. GTC Officer elections for the positions of Chair, 2 Vice-Chairs, and Treasurer will be held at the January 4 2022 GTC Regular meeting.

3. Presentation of concept plan for bridge at Glacier Creek (Kyle Kelley)

This will also be presented at LUC and GBOS in December with action requested from each group in January.

Funding possible through American Rescue Plan Act and other sources of funding as well. Cost anticipated at about \$1.2M based on similar construction at Byers Lake, plus \$50,000 for interpretive shelter. Aggressive timeline is to have construction in summer 2022.

Suspension Bridge would use the same foundations as the Hand tram. Hand tram would be completely disassembled and one terminal and tram cart used for interpretive display. Some aspects of the fall barriers in the existing terminals may be able to be reused in aspects of the new project. Current terminal building will have to be removed/moved in order to accommodate support towers/wires for suspension bridge. Bridge is to be 5' wide walkway, accessible year-round. Possible snow mitigation – shoveling or blowing – may be considered. Engineer is incorporating style from Girdwood existing structures to make aesthetic that is similar to other Girdwood sites. Lifespan is 50+ years with standard maintenance. This location and style of bridge has been pursued as it requires the least amount of ground disturbance, trail re-alignment. Majority of materials would be helicoptered to site for installation. See drawings and other information in the meeting packet.

New Business:

4. Consider projects for KMTA 2022 Grant cycle, applications available in January, due early Feb.

Upcoming KMTA grant cycle projects to consider are continue to work on Virgin Creek Falls Trail to complete improvements to the falls, fall storm trail repairs, additional fishnetting on slippery boardwalks. Possible to request assistance to fund SCA crew for a month to work on trails throughout valley in 2022 through KMTA.

5. Consider appointment of a parliamentarian to assist with Roberts Rules of Order at meetings. Julie Raymond-Yakoubian suggests that GTC consider adding this position either as a responsibility of an Executive Committee member or as a separate new position on the executive committee. Change would require update of GTC Operating Procedures. Group discusses that this is a role that could also potentially be performed by staff.

Other:

6. December LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives
7. Written Reports to be included in meeting packet:
 - Fall Storm (Oct 29-Nov 1) Damage and repair to trails.
 - Financial Report
 - Grants Status report
 - GBOS
 - Other Girdwood Trail Partners Updates: GNSC; Bikewood; Friends of Girdwood Trails; Girdwild; KMTA; Imagine! Girdwood

NOTE: Special meeting on Dec 14 to review the remaining existing recommendations may be extended to complete review. Jan 2022 meeting will be an opportunity to vote on the plan as updated, or for public to present additional recommended changes for GTC consideration at future meeting. If additional work sessions are needed, they will be considered for Jan 11, 18, 25.

Adjourn 9PM