



MINUTES DRAFT
Girdwood Trails Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 3, 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

Approval of Jan 3 meeting agenda	Barb Crews/Kalie Harrison	Assent Vote
Approval of Dec 7 meeting minutes	Kalie Harrison/Barb Crews	Assent Vote

Announcements & Presentations:

Introductions: All attending are asked to introduce themselves if they are new/returning attendees, attending via phone or sharing computers

New/returning attendees: Angela Coleman, Joel Ribbens, Keith Tryck, Ingrid Kelly

Public Comment (3 minutes each): Public Comment must be on subjects not listed on the agenda. Trail on Max’s Mtn hike has loose rocks and unstable footing, which could be dangerous.

Old Business:

1. Review and vote on Girdwood Trails Plan Candidate draft as amended by GTC in 2022

Two versions were sent out for committee to review. One version had changes accepted. Other version shows the changes to be accepted (both blue and red lines visible). Received several corrections and provided list of those items, which are being fixed by the contractor. There are still grammar and syntax items to be fixed.

Paul Crews: map on page 8, T-10 should connect to B-5.

Next steps are: Both Redline and Blue line plans will go forward to GBOS. GTC voted on but did not pass the Redline plan. Blue line is under consideration now. Item is on the agenda for LUC and GBOS as new business in January. GBOS did determine not to take this back for public review, however group discusses that this plan has been before the public for over two years through its formation. GTC has had many members join through the process of the plan creation and review.

Motion:

GTC moves to approve the Girdwood Trails Plan candidate draft as amended by the Girdwood Trails Committee.

Motion by Deb Essex, 2nd by Brian Burnett

Voting via in room, voice, poll and chat

In Room 4 yes 1 no 2 abstain

Voice 0 yes 2 no 0 abstain

Poll 28 yes 5 no 3 abstain

Chat 18 yes 2 no 0 abstain

Total: 50 yes 10 no 5 abstain

Motion carries

2. Request for recommendation of GBOS Resolution of Support for KMTA grant application to assist with trail crew funding in 2023 in the amount of \$TBA.

Probably will seek grant funding of \$28,000. Will match with Girdwood Parks 406 account and GTC Girdwood Inc account. Looking at 2 interns for the summer or larger crew over several weeks

Virgin Creek Falls Trail, Beaver Pond Trail, Middle Iditarod, brushing throughout Girdwood.

Motion:

GTC moves to recommend GBOS Resolution of Support for KMTA Grant application funding to assist with trail crew funding in the amount to be determined, but not to exceed \$28,000.

Motion by Kalie Harrison, 2nd Kate Sandberg

Motion passes unanimously by assent vote

3. Authorize funding from the GTC Girdwood Inc and request funding from Girdwood Parks 406 Account to share the cost for trail crew interns through SCA, not to exceed \$28,000.

Related to item #2.

GTC approve up to \$7,000 from their Girdwood Inc Account to use as match for the KMTA grant and request \$7,000 from Girdwood Parks and Rec account.

Motion:

GTC moves to authorize funding from the GTC Girdwood Inc account and from the Girdwood parks 406 account to share the cost of trail crew interns.

Motion by Shannon O'Brien, 2nd Kalie Harrison

Motion carries unanimously by assent vote.

4. GTC Officer Elections.

Positions are Chair, 2 vice-chairs, treasurer

Carolyn Brodin is stepping down as chair. Staff and GTC members express thanks to her for 18 years of service.

Nominations:

Chair:

Barb Crews nominated for Chair by Kate Sandberg, Barb accepts nomination.

Barb Crews is elected GTC Chair by assent vote

Vice Chair & Treasurer:

Kalie Harrison nominated for vice-chair by Shannon O'Brien. Kalie accepts nomination

Deb Essex nominated for vice-chair by Saraj Gottstein. Deb accepts nomination

Brian Burnett nominated for vice-chair by Marguerite Leeds. Brian accepts nomination

There are no formal accepted nominations for Treasurer, group determines that they will vote and assign 2 vice chairs via highest vote count.

Vote is taken via poll, chat, room and verbal votes

Deb Essex receives 18 votes in poll, 5 in chat, 2 in room: total 25 and will serve as Vice Chair
Brian Burnett receives 13 votes in poll, 5 in chat, 2 in room: total 20 and will serve as Vice Chair
Kalie Harrison receives 11 votes in poll, 3 in chat, 3 in room, 1 verbal: total 18 and will serve as Treasurer

New Business:

5. GTC recommendation for GBOS Resolution of Support for Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant funding for connector trail from the Lower INHT to Bird-Gird Trail, to be applied for through the USFS in collaboration with Girdwood Parks and Recreation. Total project cost TBA, GVSA match TBA.(Eryn Boone, USFS, presenting) Grant application deadline is Feb TBA.

Application is contingent upon highway project. Highway project remains under review and final determination is pending, including the specific location of the trail crossing under Alyeska Highway, and whether this is a culvert/highway structure or pathway adjacent to the tracks. This connector trail is supported in planning documents, including Long Trail, INHT and the Trails Plan that has been under consideration at GTC.

TAP Grant requires statement of public support and determination of who will handle maintenance and operation of the trail segment. Additional points are assigned for projects that have events that use them (Girdwood Marathon route), interpretive signage, and safety considerations.

This was presented as new business at GBOS in December due to time-sensitive nature of the grant application. Eryn requests that GTC consider if they will allow GBOS to take action in January contingent upon approval of GTC at the Feb 7 meeting. Due date has not been announced yet for the formal application, current information is that the applications will be due at some point in February. As such, there is no need to advance this to old business at GTC, but GBOS should take action as Old Business at their meeting in January contingent on GTC recommendation Feb 7.

Kyle adds that GVSA has been trying to create this trail connection for 10+ years, unable to achieve because of the proximity of the trail to the railroad under the current alignment. Road construction will allow for formal trail to be created in that location. Kyle also states that Girdwood Marathon would be a reasonable event to cite; he commits that GVSA will take responsibility for Maintenance and Operation/Ownership of the trail segment in the short term, although he plan for the full INHT route is to turn that over to the USFS. DOT may also be the designated owner, if the underground pedestrian culvert option is selected for connection under Alyeska Highway, as this would be road infrastructure, primarily.

Signage standards would match those of the rest of the Lower Iditarod NHT.

Other:

6. Ongoing Trails Issues for update:

Glacier Creek Suspension Bridge status: Proposal review has occurred, awaiting purchasing approval in order to move forward.

Grooming and other Winter Trails Items: Grooming was great until rain and warm up in December. Need more snow to get things back, current warm up provides good consolidation for the base. 3rd machine is up and running. Thanks to Shane for getting this machine set up.

Update of Trail maps: No update yet, will reach out to those who have expressed interest in volunteering on this project.

Outreach to vendors: This is an office project, letter drafted to send to commercial vendors who use the trails. Staff will follow up in January. Photographers also are required to have permits. Permits are issued by Girdwood Parks and Rec and go to the service area funds.

Signage: Signs regarding trails are being placed in the community that have not been approved or reviewed by Trails Committee. Historically trails information signs have come through the committee for approval, although GNSC has their own area that they manage, including signage within the GNSC. Deb Essex states that the trail etiquette sign was discussed at the GTC meeting in December. Goal was to direct traffic, not to bypass process. There is no accurate trail signage currently at the meadows.

Kyle states that staff places signs for resource protection, as were placed at the meadows last summer to discourage walking in meadows and Christmas tree cutting annually in the winter. These signs may be time-sensitive and those items may need to be addressed outside of GTC.

There has been an effort to create uniformity among trails signage.

This item will be added to the agenda in February as old business so that specific text of trail etiquette signage can be reviewed, with respect to statement about trails signage in the Girdwood Trails Plan.

Request for dog waste station along Verbier way bike path. Kyle states that he'll look into locations that could work with respect to snow plowing.

Other Trails Issues

7. Community Trails Information: Originally there were articles in the paper to discuss trails items. Friends of Girdwood Trails offers to promote a message if drafted. Shannon O'Brien offers to research and write a message regarding dog waste.
8. Monthly LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives: Carolyn Brodin will attend on behalf of the Trails Plan.
9. Written Reports to be included in meeting packet

Adjourn 8:30PM