



**Minutes Final**  
**Girdwood Trails Committee Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 1, 2022 7:00PM**

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

GTC Voting members are defined as is 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 Carolyn Brodin, Chair**

Approval of March 1 2022 Regular Meeting agenda      Kalie Harrison/Barb Crews      Assent

Approval of Feb 1, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes      Kalie Harrison/Barb Crews      Assent

**Announcements & Presentations: None**

**Introductions:** All attending are asked to introduce themselves

New members eligible to vote at the next meeting are:

Alec Herschleb, Bayne Salmon, Donna Evans, Lanice Drake, Malcolm Herstrand, Rebecca Reichlin, Terry Mercurio

**Public Comment (3 minutes each):**

Request to add discussion and vote to have a parliamentarian at all GTC meetings back on to the GTC regular agenda (Julie Raymond-Yakoubian)

Request to fix existing signage in the valley to indicate "Stumpy Trail" instead of "meadows" (Patty Hamre)

**Old Business:**

- 1. Girdwood Trails Plan

Introduction of Parliamentarian, Jamie Heinz. Jamie will assist in the trail plan discussions. She is not available on April 5 due to election responsibilities, discussion of changing that meeting date is later in the agenda.

Announce Trails Plan Process moving forward – Carolyn presents the specific outline that is in the meeting packet. Some members request clarification of the need of some of the steps, including additional 30 day comment period. There is some frustration regarding the time review of the amendments will take and additional time to bring back to public as a whole to review, however Chair is clear that review by GTC is followed by public review and compilation of those comments before moving on to LUC and GBOS.

Begin presentation and voting on GTC member suggested changes to GTP introduced at the Jan 18 2022 GTC meeting. As presented in January, GTC members who introduced amendments on Jan 18 now can provide a full review of their amendment and seek support from GTC to make changes to the Girdwood Trails Plan Draft. No new amendments are to be addressed.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2022

Girdwood Trails Committee Agendas and minutes are available on line: [www.muni.org/gtc](http://www.muni.org/gtc)

## Amendment #1

(Raymond-Yakoubian)

Motion: GTC Moves to adopt Amendment 1: approve the Girdwood Trails Master Plan as it is now (i.e. after incorporation of the votes on recommendations ending at the January 4, 2022 meeting), and add any new proposals that are voted on and accepted by GTC as an additional appendix to the Plan.

Motion by Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Halverson

Group votes by roll call, chat and polling:

Roll call: 3 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstain

Chat: 10 in favor, 17 opposed, 1 abstain

Poll: 15 in favor, 26 opposed, 9 abstain \*

Total: 28 in favor, 51 opposed, 10 abstain

Motion fails

\* A recent update to Microsoft Teams polling defaults to anonymous voting. Identity of those who participated in polls at this meeting cannot be confirmed, so votes cannot be verified. Staff is working with IT to address this problem and have it resolved for future meetings.

Discussion prior to vote:

Group discusses if this is redundant as GTC has previously voted not to adopt the plan as written.

The addition of continued discussion of the proposed amendments and inclusion of them in an appendix creates a new aspect to be considered.

Concern expressed about what weight these ideas would have if included in the appendix compared to inclusion in the plan itself.

Action on trails that are included in the appendix instead of the plan would likely require additional review.

This is part of the purpose of the amendment, as the upcoming amendments have not had the same degree of process and consideration as the rest of the plan and occurred outside of the activities of the subcommittee that worked on the plan initially.

Steve Halverson reviews Imagine!Girdwood survey showing that by a ratio of 3 to 1 the community chose “~4ft wide, mountain biking, classic nordic, hiking/running, ungroomed trails” over the option of “~8ft wide dedicated nordic trails”. The 4 ft wide trails with those uses best correspond to Class 2 trails per the guidelines we’ve been using in Trails Committee meetings. The draft trails plan, with it’s “Areas for Primitive Trails”, addresses and makes space for the development of this community wish. Additionally, the community survey ranked as numbers 1, 2, and 5 within the “Things Residents and Property Owners Like Most About Girdwood” as “Outdoor Recreation”, “Sense of Community”, and “Wildlife/Wilderness”, while “Limited bike and pedestrian amenities” ranked 15 out of 20 items on the community list of “Biggest Problems in Girdwood.” The Draft Trails Plan is the best effort at consensus we’ve had, and has some things for all, but not everything for some. Small town sense of community would be shown by voting to accept the Draft Trails Plan.

## Amendment #2

(Tenny)

Motion: GTC moves to approve Amendment #2 to Virgin Creek Falls Trailhead. Add bullet point 4: Upon completion of the study and review of the suggested alternatives by GTC there will be implementation of the preferred option.

Motion by Michelle Tenny, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kate Sandberg

Group votes by roll call, chat and polling:

Roll Call: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Chat: 15 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstain

Poll: 33 in favor, 2 opposed, 5 abstain\*

Total: 51 in favor, 4 opposed, 8 abstain

Motion carries

\* A recent update to Microsoft Teams polling defaults to anonymous voting. Identity of those who participated in polls at this meeting cannot be confirmed, so votes cannot be verified. Staff is working with IT to address this problem and have it resolved for future meetings.

Discussion prior to vote:

Purpose of this is to add action to the current focus on study of the trailhead/parking issue.

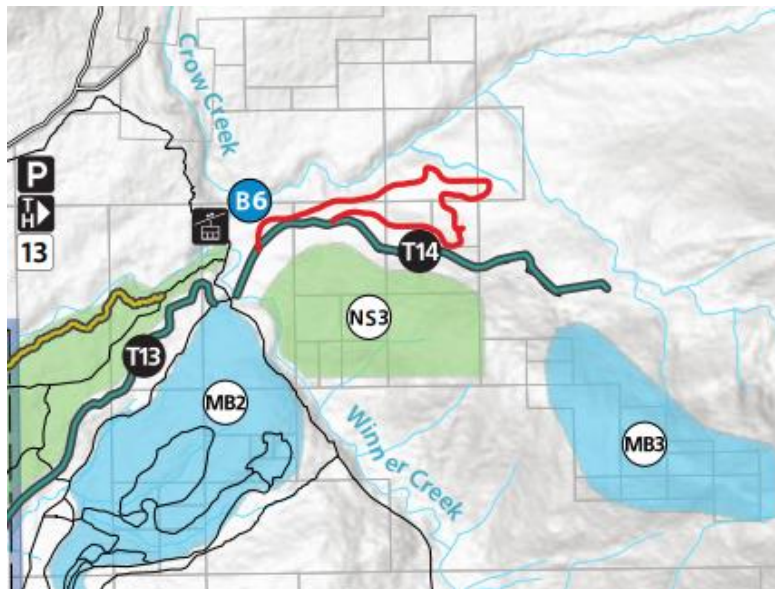
Construction of whatever the preferred option is would require normal process and permitting

Amendment #3

(Thomas)

Proposed change: Add 3-5k loop class 4 trail north of T14. (see map below)

Concern expressed that the area from the cat bridge to Notch mountain is difficult terrain, so class 4 trail may not be achievable. Dave Hamre recalls that this area is designated in the Turnagain Arm Plan and Girdwood Area plan for ski development, so there may be a conflict in this proposed trail/use. Hamre has a better idea to suggest in the future, as currently amendments to these concepts are not under consideration.



Discussion of Amendment 3 begins within the 1 hour allotment for discussion of this topic at GTC. It is clear that it will take longer than the time remaining.

Motion:

GTC moves to extend discussion for 30 minutes on Trail Plan Amendments

Motion by Justin Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Edgington

Group votes by roll call, chat and polling

Roll call: 3 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstain

Chat: 15 in favor, 3 opposed, 0 abstain

Poll: 31 in favor, 13 opposed, 4 abstain\*

Total: 49 in favor, 17 opposed, 4 abstain

Motion carries

\* A recent update to Microsoft Teams polling defaults to anonymous voting. Identity of those who participated in polls at this meeting cannot be confirmed, so votes cannot be verified. Staff is working with IT to address this problem and have it resolved for future meetings.

Group returned to discussion of amendment 3

Concern that the routing and location of this trail are not fully developed. Justin states that this is conceptual only and open to discussion about the actual location, but opening up use of upper valley area with trail to access. Concept highlights the importance of the cat bridge in accessing the upper valley, important to make improvements to this infrastructure as area is now well-used year-round. Several speak on how often they use the area, some stating that more access is welcome while others enjoy the area without additional trail users.

**Motion:**

GTC moves to approve proposed addition of a 3-5K loop class 4 trail north of T14 (Cat Trail).

Motion by Justin Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kalie Harrison

Group votes by roll call, chat and poll:

Roll call: 3 in favor, 2 opposed

Chat: 13 in favor, 16 opposed, 1 abstain

Poll: 22 in favor, 21 opposed, 6 abstain\*

Total: 38 in favor, 39 opposed, 7 abstain

Motion fails

\* A recent update to Microsoft Teams polling defaults to anonymous voting. Identity of those who participated in polls at this meeting cannot be confirmed, so votes cannot be verified. Staff is working with IT to address this problem and have it resolved for future meetings.

Consider date for Special meeting, if needed:

Special meeting March 22 at 7PM via Teams

2. Review and approval of \$TBA for Stumpy's Trail survey, as introduced in 2021, to be paid through the Parks and Rec 406 account.

This item is no longer needed as HLB will be conducting a survey related to the pre-development plan for Alyeska Village/Holtan Hills and will include survey of the trail as well.

Meeting extended past 9PM

Motion by Kalie Harrison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Barb Crews assent vote

### **New Business:**

3. Discuss meeting style options for future GTC meetings (virtual, hybrid, in-person) (Briana Sullivan) GBOS authorized purchase of equipment to facilitate hybrid meetings successfully. Staff will be setting up and experimenting with equipment once everything has arrived.
4. Discuss mechanics of new/old Business topics and what is needed to take immediate action on new business items. GTC Rules and procedures provide for a system to deal with topics that have time for only one meeting before decision is needed. Group can review what other committees have in place and the process of the discussion at LUC and GBOS as it unfolds.

Discuss meeting date for April, as it falls on election day.

Regular meeting will be moved to April 12 to avoid election day.

### **Other:**

Carolyn Brodin mentions that Barb Crews, Paul Crews, Eryn Boone and Deb Essex agreed to allow Barb Crews to consolidate their proposed amendments to the trails plan because they had several areas of similar interest. This is

outside of the requirement not to amend the proposals presented. The consolidated concepts are included in the meeting packet.

5. Trails Issues

Virgin Creek Falls Trailhead re-route (Kyle Kelley) – additional work in 2022 to complete trail tread and add the interpretive signs.

Trail Easements: Stumpy’s Winter Trail (Kate Sandberg) – already discussed. This item will be removed from agenda.

Update on Stumpy’s Winter Trail Interpretive sign project (Barb Crews) – submitted draft to the graphic designer.

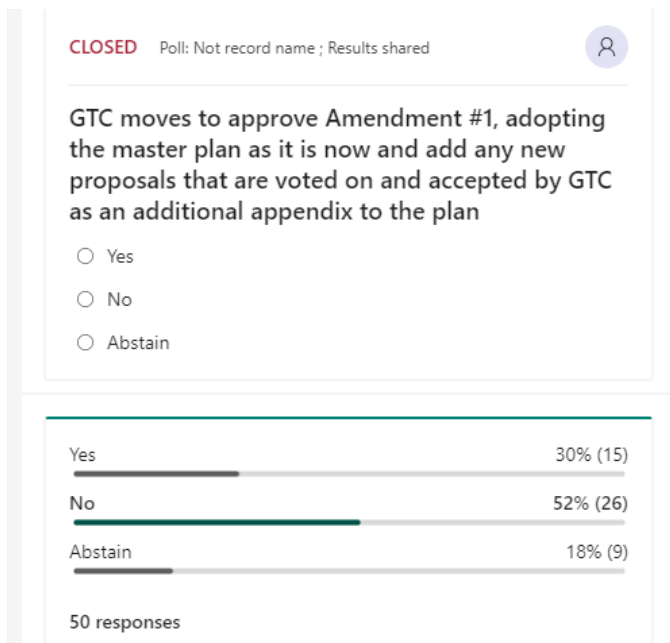
Winter Grooming – thank you to the groomers and to Shane Bowlin, who is keeping the machines running!

6. March LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives – members of executive committee will attend.

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

**Adjourn 9:22PM**





**CLOSED** Poll: Not record name ; Results shared



GTC moves to approve Amendment #2 to Virgin Creek Falls Trailhead, add bullet point 4: upon completion of the study and review of suggested alternatives by GTC there will be implementation of the preferred option.

- Yes
- no
- Abstain

Yes

Updated

Yes	82% (33)
no	5% (2)
Abstain	12% (5)

40 responses



**CLOSED** Poll: Not record name ; Results shared



Motion to extend discussion on Amendment 3 for 30 minutes

- Yes
- No
- abstain



Updated

Yes	64% (31)
No	27% (13)
abstain	8% (4)

48 responses



**CLOSED** Poll: Not record name ; Results shared



### GTC moves to approve Amendment #3: adding a 3-5K loop class 4 trail north of T14

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Yes 44% (22)

No 42% (21)

Abstain 12% (6)

49 responses

		Amendment #1 chat and verbal			Amendment #2 Chat and Verbal			Motion to Extend			Amendment #3 chat and verbal		
		yes	no	Abs	Ye s	N o	abs	Ye s	n o	ab s	Ye s	n o	abstai n
<b>Alec</b>	<b>Herschleb</b>												
Alex	Wilson												
Amanda	Sassi												
Ann	Ostroski		1		1			1			1		
Barb	Crews												
Barbara	Lydon	1											
<b>Bayne</b>	<b>Salmon</b>												
Becky	Germain												
Ben	Napolitano												
Ben	Kohler												
	Raymond-												
Brenden	Yakoubian	1			1			1					
Brian	Burnett												
Briana	Sullivan												
Camilla	Siefert												
Carolyn	Brodin												

Catherine	McDermott						
Catherine	Moncrief						
Cindi	Wilson	1		1		1	1
Clayton	Krueger					1	1
Cynthia	Christianson	1		1		1	
Dan	Kiland						1
Dave	Hamre	1		1		1	1
Deb	Essex						
Deb	Rice						
Deb	Croghan	1					
Diana	Stram						
Dinah	Merrill	1					
<b>Donna</b>	<b>Evans</b>						
Donna	Knutson						
Doug	Penn	1					1
Duffy	Daniels	1					1
Eileen	Halverson						
Eric	Steinfort						
Erik	Maurer						
Eryn	Boone						
Evan	Corral	1					1
Grace	Pleasants	1		1		1	1
Guy	Wade						
Hayley	Johnston	1					
Heather	Durtschi						
Holly	Spoth-Torres						
Jamie	Heinz						
Janeen	Hutchins						
Janet	Kiland						1
Jason	Stancil						
Jeff	Stevenson						
Jerry	Fox						
Jessica	Daniels	1		1			1
Jody	Jenkins						
John	Trautner	1		1			1
Jonathan	Lee						1
Julie	Jonas						
Julie	Raymond-Yakoubian				1		
Justin	Thomas	1		1		1	1
Kai	Penn	1					1
Kalie	Harrison						
Karen	Loso						
Kate	Sandberg						
Kathy	Trautner						
Kathy	Cronin						
Kevin	McDermott						



Kintla	Penn	1					1
Kyle	Kelley						
Lanice	Drake						
Laurie	Penn	1					1
Lisa	Maurer						
Lori	Harris	1			1		1
Lynne	Doran		1		1		1
Malcolm	Herstand						
Marc	Esslinger						
Margaret	Tyler						
Marguerite	Leeds						
Mark	Jonas	1	1		1		1
Martin	Cassens						
Mary	Thomas	1			1		1
Matt	Wedeking						
Michelle	Tenny	1	1				1
Mike	Durtschi	1					
Mike	Edgington		1		1		1
Nels	Barber						
Nick	Georgelos						
Patty	Hamre						
Paul	Allred						
Paul	Crews	1	1		1		1
Paul	Wilson	1	1		1		1
Peter	Ostroski	1	1		1		1
Phil	Ostroski	1	1		1		1
Phil	Peterson		1				1
Rachel	Steer	1					1
Randy	Brandon						
Rebecca	Reichlin						
Ron	Tenny						
Rorie	Hammel						1
Ryan	Hutchins-Cabibi						
Sabrina	Hamilton	1					1
Sarah	Mattingly				1		
saraj	Gottstein	1	1		1		1
Scott	Thomas						
Shannon	O'Brien						
Sharon	Allred						
Sharon	Samuels						
Sophie	Ostroski						
Sparky	anderson	1					
Steve	Halverson	1		1		1	1
Terin	Martinjak	1	1		1		1
Terry	Mercurio						

Tiffany  
Tim  
Zach  
Total:

Peterson  
Lydon  
Behney

