



Minutes Final
Girdwood Trails Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, March 2, 2021
Girdwood Community Room 7:30PM

Due to the current spread COVID-19 virus, Girdwood Trails Committee meetings are held virtually and telephonic indefinitely.

GTC Voting members are defined as Girdwood residents or property owners age 18 years or older who have attended one or more meetings in the last 12 months, based on sign in on the sign in sheet.

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.

Call to Order 7:39PM Carolyn Brodin, Chair

Approval of March 2, 2021 Agenda

Barb Crews/Kalie Harrison

Approval of February 2, 2021 Minutes

Kalie Harrison/Barb Crews

Announcements:

Seward Highway and Alyeska Highway Intersection Improvements Concept Report is available for review:
<http://www.sewardalyeskahwyintersection.com/>

Introductions: All attending are asked to introduce themselves for sign in purposes.

Presentation: Code of Conduct. Carolyn Brodin reads Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct, which were approved by GBOS and are intended for use by GBOS, its committees and subcommittees.

Public Comment (3 minutes each):

Chris Wilson: states support for the narrow gauge grooming around Moose Meadows and would like to see more seasonal and year-round trails.

Gabrielle Hoessle: Letter provided in support of narrow gauge grooming on Beaver Pond Trail included in meeting packet.

Jacky and Ken Graham: Letter provided in support of groomers, included in meeting packet.

Old Business:

1. Vote on GTC KMTA 2021 Grant project (applications due Mar 12, 2021)

As discussed at Feb meeting, GTC is pursuing KMTA grant for 1 interpretive sign for Stumpy's Trail. Location is at Arlberg Extension parking lot, near where the trash bin is located. Style of the sign will be similar to that of the Beaver Pond interpretive sign created and installed last year, as the INHT signs that are under development now. Eventually, a trail map sign may be added, however this is not part of the current project. KMTA grants require 50/50 match and youth participation is highly encouraged. This may be achieved with having youth help with creating some small signs to post in trees to replace ones that Stumpy created and have gone missing. Letter of support has been received from HLB.

As the deadline for the application is March 12, before the next GBOS meeting, the draft resolution was presented at the GBOS Special Meeting last week and was passed by GBOS contingent upon positive motion at GTC tonight. Draft resolution is provided in the meeting packet.

Next Meeting: April 6, 2021

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

Shelley Rowton mentions that a signage plan should be created and included in the Girdwood Trails Management Plan.

Motion:

GTC moves to request the GBOS Resolution of Support for the GTC to apply for a KMTA grant for Stumpy's Trail Interpretive signage.

Motion by Kalie Harrison/2nd by Jonathon Lee

21 in favor, 0 opposed, 8 abstain via roll call vote

Motion carries

2. Review MOU with Chugach State Park (Kyle Kelley)

Municipality of Anchorage, Girdwood Valley Service Area and the State Dept of Natural Resources have created a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for maintenance of trails that are within the GVSA and managed by Chugach State Park. MOU is included in the meeting packet for review. MOU becomes active as soon as it is signed by all parties and expires Dec 31, 2025.

Motion:

GTC moves to accept the MOU as presented.

Motion by Kalie Harrison/2nd by Kate Sandberg

26 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstaining

Motion carries

3. Trails Issues

- Progress on interpreting data and selecting future trails for trail Counter project (Barb Crews)

No report yet.

- Hand Tram: Discuss progress on proposed safety measures & draft operational management plan (Kyle Kelley)

Sticking point is the need for a licensed, insured entity to handle maintenance and inspections. No entities have been found to take this on. Without it, the hand tram cannot be operated. Plan currently is to remove the cart if it will not be operated in 2021. Bridge feasibility study is under way, staff will present their findings once the study is complete. Mike Edgington inquires if GVSA can pursue commercial insurance separately from MOA; Kyle says GVSA falls under MOA and is self insured. Additional insurance not available under GVSA alone.

- Progress report from Lower INHT signage subcommittee (Kate Sandberg)

Signage project is moving along well and includes 5 trail marker posts as well as the interpretive signage.

Likely to have work to share next month.

- Winter Grooming update:

Groomers have been busy this winter, one machine is still down as after it returned from shop the starter went out. Thanks to Shane Bowlin for his mechanical work on the machines.

- Summer GTC work party plans:

No specific plans yet, but GTC hopes to have trail work replace meetings for some of the summer months.

4. Discuss 2021 trail projects and trail crew staffing

List of trail projects is included in the meeting packet.

Girdwood Parks and Rec intends to hire 4 staff this summer and is working through HR on this process. The additional positions are funded through CARES Act funding for 2021 only. In addition, there is a donor willing to sponsor 2 weeks of SCA Crew work, possibly in Girdwood. If we get this crew, plan is to use them for work on the Virgin Creek Trail to reroute the section that is not in the trail easement held by Great Land Trust for that purpose.

5. Virgin Creek Falls Trail (Kyle Kelley)

Kyle will be engaging with Great Land Trust to discuss plans to reroute the portion of Virgin Creek Falls Trail that is currently located on private property to the south of the Great Land Trust easement.

New Business:

6. Easements (Kate Sandberg)

Since early in the formation of the Girdwood Trails Committee, getting easements for existing trails was a main priority, however having trails surveyed proved to be prohibitively expensive. HLB is now accepting a lower level of survey in order to create easements, and GTC is encouraged to systematically gain easements to protect the trails over the coming years. Easements are perpetual and immovable, 15’ from the center line of trails (30’ total). Having easements will put responsibility for trail maintenance on the GVSA/Girdwood Parks and Rec. Costs associated with getting easements are:

- Survey. Meets and Bounds Survey required and can be performed through a contractor, either term or bid), cost TBA and contingent on the length/location of trail and time needed to perform the survey. Survey must be performed by a licensed surveyor and must be stamped & recordable.
- Insurance. MOA is self-insured, there is no additional cost to GVSA.
- Application fee. HLB waives this cost for GVSA projects.
- Property interest. HLB waives this fee for GVSA projects.

Kate recommends that GTC select a trail to survey in 2021 and be voted on at the April GTC meeting. Funding for this survey would likely come from the Parks and Rec Capital fund and must be approved by GBOS. In the future, funding for survey could be set aside in the regular GVSA budgeting process. She says if Stumpy’s Winter Trail is selected, Shellwy Rowton wants informal GPS route agreement from the Trails Committee. As it is winter now and Stumpy’s Winter Trail is very accessible, Kate requests that a few people use GAIA to record the Stumpy’s Winter Trail route and send the information to Shelley Rowton: shelley.rowton@anchorageak.gov If selected for formal survey, this information will help the surveyor know the route that is intended for easement.

The following people indicate interest in participating in informal portion of this: Paul Crews, Ron Tenny, Carolyn Brodin, Mike Edgington & Kalie Harrison, Patty Hamre. Eryn Boone offers to accompany a group to learn more.

Other:

- 7. March LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives - Executive committee will ensure that a report is provided to LUC and GBOS.

Written Reports in the meeting packet: Trails Management Plan Subcommittee Update, Trails Plan Subcommittee Update, Grants Status report, GBOS, Other Girdwood Trail Partners Updates: GNSC; GMBA; Girdwild; KMTA; Imagine! Girdwood (GAP)

Adjourn 9PM

Attendees listed below:

Amanda Sassi	Kalie Harrison	Sherry Dugan
Barb Crews	Kate Sandberg	Zach Behney
Ben Kohler	Krystal Hoke	Shelley Rowton (HLB non-voting)
Bob Dugan	Marc Esslinger	Margaret Tyler (GVSA Staff)
Briana Sullivan	Martin Cassens	Kyle Kelley (GVSA Staff)
Carolyn Brodin	Matt Wedeking	
Deb Croghan	Michelle Tenny	New/Returning Members:
Deb Essex	Mike Edgington	Sabrina Hamilton
Eileen Halverson	Patty Hamre	Ryan Hutchins-Cabibi
Eryn Boone	Peter Zug	Amanda Piatt
Jeff Samuels	Ron Tenny	Chris Wilson
Jeff Stevenson	Shannon O’Brien	Ann Thomas
Jonathon Lee	Sharon Samuels	