MINUTES FINAL
Girdwood Trails Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 1, 2022 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 Code1.25 - Public Meetings.
The Girdwood Trails Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

Call to Order

Approval of Nov 1 meeting agenda	Kalie Harrison/Deb Essex	Assent vote
Approval of Oct 4 meeting minutes	Review needed on Amendment 16	Postponed to Dec

Announcements & Presentations:

GBOS Committees: GTC, LUC, and PSAC will hold elections to fill leadership roles in January.

Introductions: All attending are asked to introduce themselves. No new members noted. Roselyn Cacy is acknowledged from prior meeting.

Public Comment (3 minutes each):
Barb Crews: Alaska Trails is seeking ideas for official naming of the Long Trail. Recommendations can be emailed to Alaska Trails: steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org

Old Business:

1. Girdwood Trails Plan Candidate Draft

Notes from GTC meetings reviewing proposed amendments are being processed by Huddle AK. Huddle plans to have a Candidate Draft for new business at GTC in December with a possible vote in January, ahead of GBOS deadline. GBOS will then review the Candidate Draft and the Redline Draft and determine next step in community review and approval process.

2. Winter grooming plans and locations
   Addition of Winner Creek Trail/snow cat trail loop to narrow gauge grooming.

Winter grooming is planned for all locations that were groomed last year. Ben Kohler repeats his request for GTC approval for him to seek permission from USFS to groom the Winner Creek Trail to connect Winner Creek from Hotel to the Cat Road. Map is provided to show loop created with this grooming. This would be with the narrow gauge groomer, 32" wide.

Group discusses possibility of creating a connector for the 5K parking to Winner Creek, for winter use only. Ben expresses interest in figuring this out. Brian Burnett states that he's looked for a route but there is a lot of drainage and terrain to work around. Another idea may be to seek permission from CPG to sign the cat road as a connector route.

Kyle Kelley addresses that Winner Creek Trail is managed by the USFS, so permission would need to be received from the Forest Service.

USFS confirms that Winner Creek Trail is a Class 3 Winter Trail, intended for grooming. USFS supports whatever the public would like to see, grooming-wise on this trail.

Motion:
Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve addition of the Winner Creek Trail for 22/23 season on a provisional basis with Narrow Gauge Groomer.
Motion by Ben Kohler, 2nd by Heather Durtschi
Vote by Poll, chat, voice and in room
29 in favor, 1 opposed, 4 abstaining

Poll 18 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining
Chat 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining
Phone 3 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining
Room: 1 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstaining

New Business:

3. Introduction and request for GTC recommendation of GBOS Resolution of Support for GVSA DOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant proposed application for Arlberg Bike Path/Pedestrian Safety Corridor repave. (Amanda Sassi)

Application for TAP grant occurs in 2 phases. First phase is now complete, a pre-application with project location and description. If this project is accepted for 2nd phase, it will be helpful to have GTC recommendation for GBOS Resolution to affirm community support.
This project is restoration and repaving of the bike path along Arlberg Ave from the T intersection to the hotel. This was built in 1994 and has received some repair but is due for significant work to resolve cracking and frost heaving. There is a maximum of 2 TAP grants per area. If accepted to apply, grant application would be due this winter and notification of award anticipated in May, 2023.

4. Discuss projects for KMTA grant application 2023.

Staff met with KMTA on Friday and toured recent projects. Next application cycle will be announced in January 2023. Staff recommends application for extended trail crew to work in Girdwood next summer, either through SCA or Alaska Trails, to work on brushing, maintenance, bridge building on a variety of trails, particularly focusing on Beaver Pond, Lower and Middle Iditarod. This work would help on projects that we were not able to do last summer due to lack of staffing, as well as addressing damage from winter storms and spring 2022 avalanches.

Other:

5. Trails Issues

USFS Updates: USFS has been working on the Winner Creek and Upper Winner Creek areas for the last 2 years with Great American Outdoor Act funding. Project will continue in summer 2023, likely ending at/before the Rock Garden on the Upper Winner Creek Trail. Winner Creek is a Class 3 trail, but is generally in condition below that standard. Future plans include improving other end of the trail, from intersection with Seward Highway to Rosehip Creek.
Tim Charnon is retiring this week from his position as Glacier Ranger District Manager. Kyle thanks Tim Charnon for his years of service, advocacy and assistance.

Thank you letters to be written by GTC leadership:
Dugan family has donated $8,000 for trail map sign and installation at the 5K parking lot and a bench to be placed at that location.

KMTA Virgin Creek Trail and interpretive sign project, just completed and pending reimbursement.

Hammel Family is funding a bench in memory of Rob Hammel, which will be located overlooking from the bluff below the USFS.

Glacier Creek Suspension Bridge status: proposal deadline was today, project review committee will review proposals and plans to announce a project winner in December.

Summer trails issues/Fall Trails/Winter Trails: No update

Trails communications locally to trails users, via internet, guide books, etc: Friends of Girdwood Trails (Kalie Harrison) offers to take on social media effort regarding timely trails topics. Parks and Rec can provide ideas to share via social media.
Volunteers are needed to follow apps and other websites and communicate with them about special concerns/corrections to their information regarding Girdwood Trails.

Trails communications to vendors/permitting: Staff is working on outreach to vendors to ensure that they seek commercial use permits. Many commercial vendors are not aware that Girdwood permitting is different than MOA permitting.

Update of Trail maps: GTC needs to update trail maps, then work with a graphic designer to create good representations for map installation, including likely area-specific maps, such as at the 5K parking. They will need to depict summer and winter trails. Deb Essex says the Ski Club will also be updating their maps.

6. Monthly LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives – to be determined by GTC chairs/co-chairs.

7. Written Reports to be included in meeting packet.

Adjourn 7:55