



Minutes Final

Girdwood Trails Committee Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 7, 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 7PM Brian Burnett, co-chair

Approval of Nov 7 2023 meeting agenda approved Assent vote

Approval of Oct 3 2023 meeting minutes approved Assent vote

Announcements & Presentations: Trails Committee will hold officer elections at their January 2, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Introductions: Jeff Stevenson, Sabrina Hamilton; No other new members introduce themselves

Public Comment (3 minutes each):

Brian Burnett: Oct 7 was the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club's Girdwood Trails Marathon, 8th annual event looping through most of Girdwood's trails. This year 193 people ran. GNSC is providing a donation of \$1000 to the Girdwood Trails Committee.

Kalie Harrison: Tim Charnon is the new Girdwood representative on HLBAC.

Old Business:

1. Update on Winner Creek Trail Bridge at Glacier Creek

35% design with engineer estimate. Working on additional funding to buffer contingency fund as there are so many unknown factors with current inflation rate and suspension bridge design. Complete design will begin in December and run through winter. GTC will be shown the 95% design once completed. Construction may be pushed to 2025.

Concern brought up about additional maintenance of lower part of Crow Creek Road upon completion of the project (Soren)

2. Consider Community Trails Info message for upcoming month to be shared on social media

Respect the meadows, allow to freeze up and for snow to accumulate to 24" before grooming.

Be mindful of impact of use to trail surfaces as weather cycle changes. Leave No Trace.

3. Update of Trail maps

Received graphics of winter and summer maps this week. Staff will work with maps committee and bring them to GTC with that work once the maps committee has made their recommendations.

4. Prioritization of Trail Projects for AK Trails Assistance via legislative requests

Barb Crews contributed her ideas, staff recommendations are included in the meeting packet also. GTC members are encouraged to add their ideas as well: Arlberg Parking Lot: Expand trailhead parking area, map, restroom; Middle Iditarod NHT to improve tread of lower, middle, upper; Connection to highway/railroad; Virgin Creek Falls parking; California Creek trash, parking, restroom; Moose Meadow Parking; Beaver Pond Trail. Through discussion, these options are narrowed as there can really only be one shovel ready project that could be seriously entertained by the legislature.

Considering this, the current top considerations are:

Iditarod Trail improvements

Beaver Pond Trail

Barren Ave to Alyeska Highway.

Staff will prepare additional information for the next meeting. GTC members should consider these and be ready to make a recommendation at the December meeting.

Girdwood Trails Committee Agendas and minutes are available on line: www.muni.org/gtc

New Business:

5. Discuss requesting addition of sign at Alpine Meadows/Timberline regarding lack of turnaround for large vehicles. (Sabrina Hamilton)

Over the last several years GPR has put a lot of effort into the trail head, trail tread and signage. Most recently, GPR has reached out to commercial operators to secure permits for them to operate. GPR requires no vehicles larger than 15 passenger van and provides guidance on parking, speed limit, leave no trace. There are no code regulations restricting size of commercial vehicles. Anyone operating without a permit can be referred to GPR to obtain a permit. Enforcement is limited.

Oversize vehicles in general have a difficult time with the lack of turnaround on Timberline after Alpine Meadows intersection. Signage requires MOA traffic dept approval, as was the case for the no parking signs, parking on one side of road signs. This would be achieved through GTC request to GBOS Resolution of Support. Staff will inquire of MOA traffic to see what their suggestions are and what locations would work. Group asks if it is possible to engage rental agencies to restrict motorhomes from gravel roads as they do on Crow Creek Road. Ultimately a traffic study on Virgin Creek Falls Trail is needed as has been discussed in the past.

Kyle recommends that GTC and GPR continue to work on Commercial Operator outreach: education, map and reach out to RV rental companies. It seems that action by GBOS is not needed at this time. Individuals may create informal signage that could be placed on Timberline on private property holdings during the summer.

Other:

6. Ongoing Trails Issues for update:

- Trails Plan progress with Planning and Zoning and Assembly (Nov 6 meeting update/follow-up)

Meeting Nov 6 resulted in Trails Plan passing P&Z. Next step is for Anchorage Assembly to adopt. It will be introduced on Jan 9 and can be voted upon on Jan 23, 2024.

- Outreach to vendors

Previously discussed under New business 5.

- Other Trails Issues

None

7. Monthly LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives: TBA

8. Written Reports should be submitted to include in meeting packet

RTP application and LWCF applications were submitted.

Updated financial report is added to the final meeting packet.

Adjourn 8PM