



MINUTES FINAL
Girdwood Trails Committee Special Meeting
Tuesday, November 30, 2021 7:00PM

Girdwood Trails Committee meetings are taking place on Teams thru March 2022.
Please note, Firefox and Safari are not compatible with Microsoft Teams

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 7PM Carolyn Brodin, Chair

Approval of November 30 Special Meeting agenda Kalie Harrison/Matt Wedeking

Announcements & Presentations: None

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

New/returning attendees who will be qualified to vote at the December Regular meeting are:

Ralph Brodin, Gretchen Stewart, Eric Maurer, Serena VanderHoek

Old Business:

- 1. Discussion of draft Girdwood Trails Master Plan, reviewing recommendations starting at T14 of the GTP changes recommendations from Huddle AK.

T14: Snowcat Trail Improvements

NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Recommend adding language so support the relocation or reconstruction of this trail out of the wetlands wherever possible.

Motion:

GTC Moves to approve the recommendation as presented

Motion by Deb Essex, 2nd by Matt Wedeking

41 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstaining

Motion carries

B1: Glacier Creek Trail Bridge - Lower Valley

NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Overall, this project was recognized as a good crossing to connect lower valley trails. Recommend adding language to indicate that it would be beneficial to coordinate with the Alaska Railroad so that if/when the trestle is ever rebuilt over Glacier Creek maybe the future crossing can include a safe pedestrian connection – a future collocated bridge could also be part of the proposed southern extension of the

Seward Highway Trail. Also recommend adding language that if this level of coordination is not successful, the most feasible location for a bridge in the lower valley should be identified.

Motion:

GTC moves to approve the recommendation as presented.

Motion by Ben Kohler, 2nd by Deb Essex

34 in favor, 5 opposed, 3 abstaining

Motion carries

B2: California Creek Bridge

CHANGE RECOMMENDED - Remove this project from the plan. See project T3.

Motion:

GTC moves to approve the recommendation as presented.

Motion by Matt Wedeking, 2nd by Jonathon Lee

40 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstaining

Motion carries

B3: Virgin Creek Bridge

NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Motion:

GTC moves to approve the recommendation as presented.

Motion by Matt Wedeking, 2nd by Kevin McDermott

38 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstaining

Motion carries

B4: Improve Connectivity at Glacier Creek Bridge at Alyeska Highway

NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Motion:

GTC moves to approve the recommendation as presented.

Motion by Matt Wedeking, 2nd by Peter Zug

42 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining

Motion carries

B5: Glacier Creek Trail Bridge - Middle Valley - North of Airport Land

NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Add language to strengthen the concept that this bridge should connect directly to T10.

Motion:

GTC moves to approve the recommendation as presented.

Motion by Ben Kohler, 2nd by Ryan Hutchins-Cabibi

Concern expressed that this connects Stumpy's Summer Trail, which is Class 2 and would necessitate improvement of that trail to Class 3, based on guidelines trails plan pg 41, which specifically mentions Stumpy's Trail and states that these trails should be built to the trail classification of the connecting trails. However, the recommendation that is presented addresses this need for correction on page 41, stating that this should connect directly to T10, not Stumpy's Summer Trail. Motion is amended to clarify this:

Amended Motion:

GTC moves to approve the recommendation as presented, connecting T10 and Middle Iditarod NHT.

Motion by Ben Kohler, 2nd by Matt Wedeking

42 in favor, 7 opposed, 2 abstaining

Motion carries

B6: Glacier Creek Trail Bridge – Upper Valley Hand Tram

NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Motion:

GTC moves to approve the recommendation as presented.

Motion by Deb Essex, 2nd by Ryan Hutchins-Cabibi

40 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstaining

Motion carries

Topic moves to Trailhead recommendations. There is a group of No change Recommended Trailhead topics:

TH 1, TH2, TH4, TH5, TH6, TH8, TH9, TH10, TH11, TH12, TH13

Group decides to address them separately to give each one adequate attention as Trailheads and trailhead amenities are a large new element of Girdwood Trails. After review of these No Change Recommended, the group will address the ones with changes recommended, namely TH3 and TH7

TH1: Girdwood Depot Trailhead Upgrades

Pursue an official parking agreement with the Alaska Railroad to provide authorized trail parking in this location. Install trailhead, wayfinding, and informational signage as authorized. Provide a vaulted restroom. This trailhead can successfully accommodate Girdwood visitors who want access to lower valley trails and can be a great future trailhead for the Virgin Creek Natural Area when an authorized crossing of Glacier Creek is constructed.

NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Motion:

GTC moves to approve the recommendation as presented.

Motion by Jonathon Lee, 2nd by Deb Essex

36 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstaining

Motion carries

Discussion includes interest in upgrading the expectation of restrooms to be something better than vaulted and add viewing platform and picnic area.

TH2: Glacier Ranger District Trailhead

Pursue an official parking agreement with the USFS to provide authorized trail parking in this location. Install trailhead, wayfinding, and informational signage as authorized. This is a great opportunity to highlight coordination and collaboration for a community-based trail system.

NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Motion:

GTC moves to approve the recommendation as presented.

Motion by Deb Essex, 2nd by Matt Wedeking

36 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstaining

Motion carries

TH4: Virgin Creek Falls Access Study

A combination of trailhead and circulation improvements are needed in this location to achieve the following:

- Reduce traffic impacts to the neighborhood streets.
- Improve connectivity between Lower Virgin Creek and Upper Virgin Creek Trails
- A separate Virgin Creek Trailhead and trail circulation study is needed to recommend a range of alternatives for resolving trail, traffic, parking, and trailhead conflicts in the neighborhood. ****Additional UDC review required.***

NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED

Motion to extend the meeting until 9:20

Motion by Eryn Boone, 2nd by Ben Kohler

28 in favor, 4 opposed, 2 abstaining

Motion carries

Motion:

GTC moves to approve the recommendation as presented.

Motion by Deb Essex, 2nd by Matt Wedeking

38 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstaining

Motion carries

Discussion is that no action is required in this plan language once the study is complete. Staff input is that it is premature to address action in the plan as the possible solutions are completely unknown and may not be acceptable to the community. It would be possible for amendment to the TH language in the future if such language is proposed.

2. Discussion of future Special Meeting Dates for review the Trails Master Plan.
 - Dec 7 Regular meeting – 1.5 hr on plan revisions; other business also
 - Dec 14 Special meeting will be scheduled
 - Dec 28 Special meeting is unlikely
 - Jan 4 Regular meeting
 - Jan 11, 18, 25 Special meeting options if needed.

Public Comment (3 minutes each):

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian requests that a parliamentarian is appointed to help with Roberts Rules of Order.

Peter Zug states that plans such as this Master Plan are a starting point and should be expected to change as the community evolves and needs arise.

Adjourn 9:15PM