



Minutes Final
Girdwood Trails Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 3, 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 7:01 Barb Crews, Chair

Approval of Oct 3 2023 meeting agenda

Deb Essex/Brian Burnett

Assent vote

Approval of Sept 5 2023 meeting minutes

Deb Essex/Brian Burnett

Assent vote

Announcements & Presentations:

None

Introductions: All new/returning attendees are asked to introduce themselves, members attending via phone anonymously, and members attending jointly via one computer so that attendance is accurate.

None

Public Comment (3 minutes each):

Girdwood Trails Marathon this SAT at 9AM. Course will be marked this week with pink race wands; wands will be collected SAT afternoon.

Imagine! Girdwood Open House Oct 11 – all are encouraged to attend.

Old Business:

1. Winner Creek Trail Bridge at Glacier Creek Update and approval of design. As recommended by GTC, GBOS has provided a Resolution of Support for the 35% design. Design package with estimate was received from contractor Reid Middleton today. This design package will now undergo technical review and move on to 95% design.
2. Consider Community Trails Info message for upcoming month to be shared on social media
Trail transition into fall – stay off soft trails
Information on grooming start for Moose Meadows, 5K and snow-dog groomed areas.
Alyeska hiking usually usually mid-October when snowmaking begins. Observe and follow signage.
3. Review of trail work in Sept and plans for Oct
See packet for wish list of projects and the number that were achieved. Projects were taken on by Alaska Trails paid crew, volunteers at GTC work party, volunteers at numerous Friends of Girdwood Trails work parties, Methodist mission group, and Parks and Rec summer parks caretaker staff.
4. Update of Trail maps
Staff met with Peter Briggs in September. He will provide a draft map which will be presented to GTC Subcommittee for input.
5. Proposed projects for Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant 2024 cycle seeking GTC recommendation for GBOS
Resolutions of Support:

GTC/GVSA: Middle INHT tread, drainage and bridges: See meeting packet for public notice and map of area to be worked on to restore trail. Grant will cover work by contracted trail crew, materials including gravel and wood, and transportation of materials to the site. Match will come from in-kind and cash from Girdwood Parks and Rec 406 account.

Motion:

GTC moves to recommend a GBOS Resolution of Support for GTC's RTP grant to work on the Middle Iditarod National Historic Trail, as presented.

Motion by Brian Burnett, 2nd by Kate Sandberg

Unanimous approval by Assent vote

Bikewood: Trails within the 5K mountain bike park, phase 2: See meeting packet for public notice and map of area proposed by Bikewood for RTP grant. Bikewood will provide match via in-kind and cash from their own non-profit. Project requires Assembly passing the Trails Master Plan in order to commence.

Motion:

GTC moves to recommend a GBOS Resolution of Support for Bikewood's RTP grant to create 2 new bike trails in the Mtn Bike park area at the 5K, as presented.

Motion by Brian Burnett, 2nd by Deb Essex

Unanimous approval by Assent vote

New Business:

6. Prioritization of Trail Projects: Haley Johnston is Trails Initiative Manager with Alaska Trails and lobbies for trails funding with the Alaska State Legislature. Recently, Alaska Trails successfully advocated for state funding of the Winner Creek Trail Bridge over Glacier Creek. At this time, it is recommended that GTC review their wish list of projects and prioritize the top 10 projects, the top few of which Alaska Trails can add to their priority list for this area. State funding is not guaranteed and depends a lot on various budget and other factors during legislative session.

GTC members are asked to review the (draft) Trails Plan and approved Management Plans and make their recommendations for projects; staff will also weigh in.

Trails plan is available here: [Girdwood Trails Plan Feb 6 2023.pdf \(muni.org\)](#)

Trails management plan is available here: [Girdwood Valley Trails Management Plan 2020 Revision.pdf \(muni.org\)](#)

Projects that come to mind immediately are:

creation of a formal connector trail from Barren Ave to Alyeska Highway

rehabilitation of the Arlberg Pathway.

improvements to create the Girdwood Trail Marathon loop.

Other:

7. Ongoing Trails Issues for update:
 - Trails Plan progress with Planning and Zoning and Assembly.
Plan is to go to Planning and Zoning Nov 6, and Assembly following that.
Public is requested to provide comment to the plan and to attend P&Z meeting.
Kyle Kelley and Holly Spoth-Torres will present at P&Z.
Although it's not posted yet, public notice on the meeting and request for input will be posted shortly on the MOA P&Z page: [Planning Application Search - CityView Portal \(muni.org\)](#)
 - Outreach to vendors – no update, next step will be to request payment for per user fee at the end of the calendar year.
 - Other Trails Issues
homeless camper on the Beaver Pond Trail. WPD made welfare check last week. Individual is moving around to various sites and seems able to care for himself.
8. Monthly LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives: LUC & GBOS – chair and co-chairs will handle representation at these meeting.
9. Written Reports should be submitted to include in meeting packet – see packet.

Adjourn 8PM