Minutes Draft
Girdwood Trails Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting -- Tuesday, September 1, 2020
Girdwood Community Room 7:30PM

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

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 Code1.25 - Public Meetings.

Call to Order

Approval of September 1, 2020 Agenda	Paul Crews/Barb Crews
Approval of August 4,2020 Minutes	Kate Sandberg/Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian

Announcements:

2021 GBOS Grants Presentations TUE September 15 7PM-9PM

Introduction of Guests/Presentations: All attendees introduce themselves, this list is used for attendance record and voting.

Public Comment (3 minutes each): Public Comment must be on subjects not listed on the agenda.
Ethan Tyler: Operating procedures state: The Girdwood Trails Committee (GTC) advocates for, protects, and maintains trails according to the guidelines of the Girdwood Trails Management Plan. The GTC reports to the Girdwood Board of Supervisors. Ethan believes item #3 and item #7 are not in alignment with this statement.

Eileen Halverson: Request that GTC develop a trail intercept survey to receive trail user feedback. Group considers adding to this agenda, but ultimately decide to discuss with Huddle AK as this seems related to the Master Plan effort.

Old Business:

1. Discuss if there is a project for GTC application for 2021 RTP Grant cycle (Kyle Kelley)

GTC has no projects far enough in planning and development to be considered shovel ready for 2021 RTP grant cycle.

2. Discuss narrow gauge winter grooming of specific trails for 2020-21 season (Ben Kohler)

Ben Kohler brought this idea forward last spring and at the GTC August meeting asked to be placed on the agenda for discussion at this meeting. Track sled is light and about 2' wide, max speed is 20MPH. Sled will create compacted surface for single-track hiking, biking, running, classic skiing, etc. Ben plans to crowd source funding for the purchase of the track sled.

Grooming arrangement would be similar to that with the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club, grooming by volunteers with equipment purchased privately. Specifics of this arrangement would be worked out with GVSA staff if concept is approved by Trails Committee.

Ben has discussed this with Alaska State Parks regarding Bird/Gird grooming and has received a Special Use Permit for grooming on this Chugach State Park land.
Jason Stancil with USFS says that USFS is interested in hearing community feedback regarding possible grooming on Winner Creek Trail.

Specific looping trails for GTC to consider for grooming are:

- **Beaver Pond/Lower Iditarod Loop:** Using connector at Bird/Gird Trail to winter route Beaver Pond Trail, Connector route from Lower INHT to Karolius (State and HLB land)
- **Winner Creek Trail/Snow Cat road Loop:** Loop back to parking at 5K (USFS and HLB land)
- **Bird/Gird**: Out and back trail to the outhouses and summer route connector. (State park land)

Overall feedback from Trails Committee is positive. Group is interested in seeing maps detailing the proposed grooming routes and a written plan regarding specifics of grooming, particularly if there are locations that are not on trail tread, such as winter route of the Beaver Pond Trail, which crosses the marsh.

Several motions are proposed and withdrawn as the group works through specifics of what they are comfortable approving at this meeting. Mapping will be required in order to receive land manager approval. Some existing trail routes do not match the routes in adopted plans (eg Lower Iditarod National Historic Trail). Various members of GTC state that they support the concept of narrow gauge grooming on some trails. They want to discuss each of the trails proposed separately at a future meeting and vote on them one-by-one. Several members state that they do not support grooming on the Winner Creek Trail.

Motion:
Girdwood Trails Committee moves to approve in concept moving forward with fundraising for narrow gauge grooming machine and return to Girdwood Trails Committee for discussion and vote on specific trails to be groomed in October.
Motion by Sparky Anderson, 2nd by Kate Sandberg
20 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstaining
Motion carries

3. Review AMC regarding motorized use on trails (e-bikes, one-wheels). This item was brought up at the August GTC meeting due to concerns of etiquette and speed on trails. One-wheels are a fairly new device and are not addressed in code. Currently e-bikes and Segways are considered similarly to wheelchairs and are allowed on trails. Group discusses spring effort for community outreach to encourage good trail etiquette among all trail user groups. Group is interested in inviting a one-wheel rider attend a meeting to understand this new device and sport better.

4. Update on working on MOU with Chugach State Park for work on California Creek Trail/Abe's Trail connector. (Kate Sandberg)

Email to Chugach State Park has been drafted and GVSA staff will take this forward to Alaska State Parks.

5. Hand Tram: update on status of safety measures; continue discussion of operational management plan

Due to COVID-19 response, the meeting to review safety measures and Operational Management Plan has been delayed. Currently a meeting is planned with MOA Risk Management and Legal Dept the end of September/early October.

6. Review 2020 Trail projects

Summer trail crew has been focused on middle section of the Iditarod National Historic Trail from the Girdwood school along Crow Creek Road. They have added drainage, fixed trail tread and added fish netting to wood boardwalks. All trails have been brushed, there may be sections requiring second brushing before end of season. Positions are funded through October, although weather may impact some projects.
Virgin Creek Falls Trail: Section 106 review complete, moving forward with possible construction this fall,

weather depending. GVSA staff will coordinate with HLB before moving forward on trail rebuild project on HLB land.

7. Update from Carolyn Brodin re discussion with USFS regarding no bike signage on lower section of Winner Creek Trail

Carolyn has initiated discussion with Tim Charnon as the signage regarding "walk your bike" restriction at start of Winner Creek Trail. USFS may add signage.

8. Update from signage subgroup on progress on Lower INHT (Kate Sandberg)

Group is moving forward with research for interpretive signs.

9. Review Trail Counter data from MOA Traffic Dept.

Update status of GTC request trails for upcoming study: Beaver Pond Trail and Virgin Creek Trail
Barb Crews and Kyle to work on interpreting data with traffic department and determining request for future study locations.

10. Trails Issues:

Ben Kohler has noticed significant beaver damming at the bridges behind the catholic church. This is DOT land/airport property.

New Business: None

Other:

11. September LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives: GTC executive committee member will attend and/or provide written report.

12. Other

Possible $80,000 funding for Girdwood trails projects. Kyle received call from MOA Parks and Rec regarding funding for trails projects through COVID relief funds. Funds would be disbursed to fund employees to work on projects before the end of 2020. Trail building season is heading toward winter shutdown, hiring employees to work on these projects is unlikely to occur and complete projects by Dec 31. Kyle is planning to develop a budget to address labor cost, materials, etc. We hope to be able to receive funds and hold them with Girdwood Inc to expend next summer.

Written Reports to be added to the meeting packet:

- Trails Management Plan Subcommittee Update
- Trails Plan Subcommittee Update
- Financial Report (Carolyn Brodin)
  Grants Status report
- GBOS
- Other Girdwood Trail Partners Updates: GNSC; GMBA; Girdwild; KMTA; Imagine! Girdwood (GAP)

Adjourn 9:18PM

Girdwood Trails Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting via Teleconference
Date: 09-01-20

Name (please print)	Affiliation	Vote on grooming item
Carolyn Brodin	Trails Chair	Y
Barb Crews	Trails Co-chair	Y
Kate Sandberg	Trails Co-chair	Y
Kyle Kelley	GVSA Staff	Abstain
Margaret Tyler	GVSA staff	Abstain
Paul Crews		Y
Shelley Rowton	HLB	n/a
Diana Stram		Y
Nick Georgelos		Y
Julie Raymond-Yakoubian		Y
Sparky Anderson		Y
Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian		Y
Marc Esslinger		Y
Eileen Halverson		Y
Ethan Tyler		Y
Briana Sullivan	GBOS-Trails	Y
Jessica Szelag		Y
Martin Cassens		Y
Jason Stancil	Rejoining/USFS	Abstain
Deb Essex		Y
Dan Starr		Y
Jonathon Lee		Did not vote
Ben Kohler		Y
Ron Tenny		Y
Deb Croghan		Y

Total vote: 20 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstain