



Minutes Final
Girdwood Trails Committee Special Meeting RE: Trails Plan
Tuesday, September 13, 2022 7:00PM

Girdwood Trails Committee meetings are taking place on Teams and in person at the Girdwood Community Room.

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

- Approval of September 13, 2022 meeting agenda Kalie Harrison/Peter Zug Assent vote
- Discussion about presentation and voting on edits without the petitioner present.
- Parliamentarian clarifies that this is not unusual nor against Roberts Rules.
- Staff states that this occurs at GBOS and other committee meetings and action is taken without petitioner present.

Announcements & Presentations:

None

Introductions: All attending are asked to introduce themselves

New/returning members are: Jim Evans, Laurie Tryck, Maggie Donnelly

Public Comment (3 minutes each): Public Comment must be on subjects not listed on the agenda.

Amanda Locke – appreciates in person attendance and hopes others will come in person if possible as it is easier to hold a productive meeting.

Saraj Gottstein – appreciates on-line option as it allows her to participate on her way home from work.

Kalie Harrison – Great Climb-A-Thon over the weekend. Assembly has declared Sept as Gynecological Awareness Month, Brian Burnett attended Assembly meeting.

Old Business:

1. Girdwood Trails Plan

Amendment 14: Remove Primitive Trail Paragraph on Page 24.

Deb Essex explains that she didn't know that edits to the language could be proposed in January when she made this proposal. Edit to the language to make it historically correct is needed, but not deletion entirely.

***Note for possible editor review.**

Amendment is withdrawn by petitioner following discussion.

Amendment 15: Amend text to T5 as follows:

Construct an east/west trail connection in the lower valley between the Beaver Pond Trail and the Alyeska Highway Bike Path. This trail would allow users to access and exit the Beaver Pond trail about midway, creating a shorter option for those who do not wish to go the entire length of Beaver Pond trail. It would provide trail connectivity for residents of a possible future development of HLB Tract 18A. T5 would be constructed to Class 3 Biking design parameters. The trail alignment should use the existing Juniper Drive easement. If the trail is constructed before parcels 6-010 and/or 6-040 are developed, the trail and associated easement may need to be relocated when the HLB parcels are subdivided and developed.

Motion to accept Amendment

Motion by Shannon O'Brien, 2nd by Kalie Harrison

Motion passes by assent vote

Amendment 16: Skip to address at next meeting when petitioner is present.

Amendment 17: Amend text to T6 as follows:

~~Provide a trail connection from the neighborhoods of the middle valley to town center. This proposed trail connection would provide a more direct trail connection to town center from the Alyeska Basin Subdivision by shortening the amount of time pedestrians and trail users would have to travel on roads. Avoid wetlands when possible. Boardwalk structures can be used where staying out of wetlands is not feasible. This trail should be kept outside of natural area 1 (NA1) using HLB land zoned GOS and/or GCR-1. Designed to Class 3 bicycle design parameters. Trail would tie into the Alyeska Hwy Bike Path after crossing under the Alyeska Hwy Glacier Creek bridge existing trails before crossing the highway.~~

Motion to accept amendment

Motion by Amanda Locke, 2nd by Camilla Siefert

Motion passes by Assent vote

Amendment 18: Amend text to T7 as follows:

Change the sentence from "...the trail...will be relocated..." to "...the trail...may need to be relocated ...".

Motion to accept amendment

Motion by Amanda Locke, 2nd by Shannon O'Brien

Motion passes by Assent vote

Amendment 19: Amend Text to T8 as follows:

This trail is shown on many trail plans and forms a natural connection between the Beaver Pond Trail on the south, and the Iditarod on the north crossing Ragged Top Trail on the way. The route traverses an area of old growth rainforest, open marshes, small stream courses and waterfalls. The trail would require a bridge to cross over California Creek to join up with Beaver Pond Trail. This bridge could be built in coordination with the Girdwood Cemetery, whose Master Plan also shows a bridge in this area. This trail connection T8 would provide an important link in the Circum-Valley Loop. Trail would be constructed to Class 2 Hiking design parameters. The proposed route traverses HLB lands zoned both GOS and gR-3. If the trail is constructed before parcel 6-010, zoned gR-3 is developed, the trail and associated easement may need to be will be relocated when/if the HLB parcel is subdivided and developed. This trail is identified in the Crow Creek Neighborhood Land Use Study.

Motion to accept amendment
Motion by Camilla Siefert/2nd by Shannon O'Brien
Motion passes by Assent vote

Amendment 20: Amend Text to T9 as follows:

Change the sentence from “...the trail...*will be relocated*...” to “...the trail...*may need to be relocated*...”.

Motion to accept amendment
Motion by Amanda Locke, 2nd by Peter Zug
Motion passes by Assent vote

Amendments 21-24 Skip to address at next meeting when petitioner is present.

Amendment 25: Amend text to B3 as follows:

Identify a location for a trail bridge to cross Virgin Creek. A bridge would provide a safe, legal, and sustainable connection between lower Virgin Creek and the Wagon Trail ~~and complete a loop in the lower Valley~~. This project must be pursued in concert with the Virgin Creek Access Study (TH4).

Motion to accept amendment
Motion by Shannon O'Brien, 2nd by Amanda Locke
Motion passes by Assent vote

Amendment 26: Add text for B7, which has been approved in the plan but does not have text yet.

Construct a pedestrian trail bridge across California Creek as part of the T8 trail project connecting Beaver Pond Trail to the Toe Slope Trail. This bridge is also included in the Girdwood Cemetery Master Plan, so bridge planning and construction could be shared between the GTC and the Girdwood Cemetery.

Motion to accept amendment
Motion by Amanda Locke, 2nd by Shannon O'Brien
Motion passes by Assent vote

Amendments 27-30 Skip to address at next meeting when petitioner is present.

Amendments 31-33 Petitioner withdraws as areas of primitive trails has been pulled from the plan.

Amendments 34-36 Skip to address at next meeting when petitioner is present.

Amendment 37: Amend text for MB1 as follows:

*Provide purpose-built mountain biking flow trails (Class 2-3 bicycle design parameters) to the west of Abe's trail ~~and Beaver Pond trail in the area between the California Creek drainages~~. This mountain bike area would alleviate user conflicts around the Abe's Trail/Beaver Pond/California Creek area. Beaver Pond Trail (out of trailhead 20) ~~and a new built up track~~ would be the up route for bicycle traffic and the proposed ~~T7 Crow Creek Road to Beaver Pond Trail~~ would be the down route. Design intent is to mitigate user conflict in this area to the greatest extent possible by providing purpose-built mountain biking trails and removing faster-speed bicycle traffic from multi-use trails built for hiking. Trailhead access for this area would be located at Town Center, the ~~improved~~ Beaver Pond Trailhead, *Cemetery trailhead, or Girdwood Pre-K-8 School* ~~Four Valleys Community School~~.*

Motion to accept amendment
Motion by Shannon O'Brien, 2nd by Jonathan Lee
Motion passes by Assent vote

Amendment 38: Amend text for MT2 as follows:

Provide purpose-built mountain biking flow trails (Class 2-3 bicycle design parameters) within and around the 5K Nordic Ski Loop. All trails in MB2 should minimize impacts to the Winner Creek Trail viewshed. Trailhead access to the area is from the Arlberg Trailhead, Alyeska Resort for resort guests, Alyeska Resort for the general public if a parking agreement is in place, and the Winner Creek Gorge Trailhead once the bridge over Glacier Creek at the Hand Tram is in place. ~~Additional trails in MB2 will not be authorized until a parking agreement is in place, Arlberg is expanded, or another parking solution is identified.~~

Motion to accept amendment

Motion by Jonathan Lee, 2nd by Camilla Siefert

Motion passes by Assent vote

Amendments 39, 40 Skip to address at next meeting when petitioner is present.

Amendment 41: Amend Text on page 16 to remove reference to hand tram in Existing Physical Conditions.

Discussion: removal of this doesn't seem correct. Hand tram remains a factor in why trails are where they are, and bridge will replace it eventually.

***Note for possible editor review.**

Motion by Amanda Locke, 2nd by Camilla Siefert

Vote via poll, voice and in room

11 in favor, 6 opposed, 4 abstain

Motion carries

Amendment 42: Amend text on page 26 to remove reference to Hand tram from Connectivity Section.

Discussion: removal doesn't seem correct. Hand tram replacement by bridge is in planning stage now.

***Note for possible editor review.**

Motion to postpone indefinitely

Motion by Camilla Siefert, 2nd by Kalie Harrison

Motion passes by assent vote.

Amendment 43: Amend text on page 26, Access section as below

Parking for trail access is available year-round at the USFS Ranger District Office, Beaver Pond Trail, Arlberg Lot and Moose Meadows Ski Trails. The following parking options are only accessible during summer: Crow Pass, Winner Creek Gorge, Middle Iditarod, and ~~Upper Iditarod Trail~~, Upper Virgin Creek Trail.

Motion to accept amendment

Motion by Shannon O'Brien, 2nd by Amanda Locke

Motion passes by Assent vote

Amendment 44: Petitioner withdraws as areas of primitive trails has been pulled from the plan.

Amendment 45: Skip to address at next meeting when petitioner is present.

Adjourn 8:25PM

Attendees at 9.13.22 Special meeting

Amanda Locke
Ben Kohler
Briana Sullivan 5325
Camilla Siefert
Carolyn Brodin
Clayton Krueger
David Hamre
Deb Essex
Debra Croghan
Debra Rice
Donna Evans x3151
Guy Wade
Jamie Heinz

Jason Stancil
Jim Evans x 3151
John Trautner
Jonathan Lee
Julie Jonas
Kalie Harrison
Kate Sandberg
Kathy Trautner
Kelley, Kyle T.
Krystal Hoke
Laurie Lokovsek Tryck
Lin Hinderman
Maggie Donnelly (Guest)

Margaret Tyler
Marguerite Leeds
Martin Cassens
Nels Barber (Guest)
Patty Hamre
Peter Zug
Rich Peterson (Guest)
Saraj Gottstein x 8682
Shannon O'Brien
Sophie Ostroski
Sparky Anderson
Steve Halverson