



Minutes Final
Girdwood Trails Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting – Tuesday, September 7, 2021
Girdwood Community Room & On-Line

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 Code 1.25 - Public Meetings.

The Girdwood Trails Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

Call to Order 7:00PM Carolyn Brodin, Chair

Approval of Sept 7, 2021 Agenda Lynne Doran/Jonathon Lee

Approval of Aug 3, 2021 Minutes Kalie Harrison/Kate Sandberg

Announcements: This meeting is taking place as a hybrid in-person and on-line. Members will need to state who they are and speak clearly so that those attending in the other format can hear them.

Introductions: All attending are asked to introduce themselves. New/Returning members are Jody Jenkins and Michelle Cosper.

Presentations: None

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

Will Brennan (USFS): Crew began work today removing the final stretch of old step-and-run from the Winner Creek Trail. Work area is narrow, please make sure you give enough room if you encounter trail crew. Work is scheduled through October.

Also, Turnagain Pass Trail new bridges are complete and trail is open. This expands year-round access via the Iditarod National Historic Trail through Turnagain Pass.

Old Business:

1. Trails Issues

Discuss 2021 trail projects status:

Virgin Creek Falls Trailhead re-route (Kyle Kelley): See written report in packet. New trailhead with rock steps to entry point. Trail work and signage will channel trail users to the intended trail, SCA crew will add gravel. Rope line will be used to limit access to social trails. Average time on trail by hikers to the falls is 15 minutes.

Ruane Rd Access: Dirt work completed last week. Report in packet.

Trail Easements: Stumpy's Winter Trail (Kate Sandberg): As presented last month, part of the trail is solidly on Airport land i.e. State of Alaska (SOA). HLB recommended circumnavigation route around the airport land within HLB holdings, however easements are granted after trail is constructed, and construction of this route is not desirable at this time due to expense, wetlands and lack of need as long as trail access is possible through airport land.

Next Meeting: October 5, 2021

Girdwood Trails Committee Agendas and minutes are available on line: <http://www.muni.org/gbos>

SOA Airport leasing says that no one has ever requested a permit to use/cross the land. Permit involves application fee of \$250; if approved, yearly permit fee is \$625 or just under \$.10 per sf. This likely also involves some sort of survey to establish total sf. SOA has installed no trespassing signs, however these do not impede access of the currently used trails on the north end of the airport that lead pedestrians out of the airport property.

In discussion on this topic GTC members express concern about applying for a permit and having it denied by SOA, compared to ongoing unpermitted traditional use. Group is leaning toward obtaining easement on HLB land from exit out of airport property to the gorge, with survey to be scheduled with contractor once access on wetlands is possible.

Update on Stumpy's Winter Trail Interpretive sign project: no update at this time.

2. Discuss and vote on GTC Operating Procedure Review

Group reviews updates proposed last month, one change to original proposal is clarifying meeting ends after 2 hours unless a vote extends by 1 hour. Most language that is being added comes from GBOS Operating Procedures. Group discusses changing language to include text about fully in-person meetings, to be more inclusive of other possible meeting types, such as virtual or hybrid.

Motion:

GTC moves to shift of online meetings due to current state of pandemic.

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

Motion is withheld to complete operating procedure discussion.

Motion:

GTC moves to approve proposed changes to GTC Operating Procedures, with further amendment of language to clarify that members must be present at meetings in order to vote (no in-absentia or proxy voting).

Motion by Kalie Harrison, 2nd by Kate Sandberg

28 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstaining

Motion carries

Group shifts conversation back to discussion about in-person, hybrid, and fully on-line meetings. Current state is rapid increase of local COVID-19 cases, however, other input is that people generally enjoy on-line meeting access and increased attendance and participation. The two items are not necessarily related to each other. Several amendments are offered for the original motion, eventually settling on the following:

Amended Motion:

GTC moves to hold meetings only on line for 6 months (thru March, 2022).

Amended motion by Jerry Fox, 2nd by Ryan Hutchins-Cabibi

Vote on amendment to motion:

23 in favor, 1 opposed, 5 abstain

Approval of the motion:

GTC moves to hold meetings on-line only for 6 months (thru March, 2022)

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

18 in favor, 1 opposed, 5 abstain

Motion carries

3. Consider and vote regarding Bikewood request for updated restatement of GTC recommendation for GBOS Resolution of Support of proposed for Girdwood Bike Park master plan to submit with construction grants applications in the upcoming year.

Bikewood, formerly Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance, proposed the bike park master plan in Feb 2019 and received support from GTC and LUC for a GBOS resolution of support, which could be used to show community

interest and support for grant documents. Nothing has changed since then, the proposed resolution was not signed at that time because a full master plan for all trails was also needed. That plan is in process but will not be fully complete for some time, and Bikewood wants to secure funding for next summer construction, if possible. Bikewood will return to GTC in the spring with specific alignments/trails to present to GTC based on funding received.

Motion:

GTC moves to recommend a GBOS Resolution of Support of proposed Girdwood Bike Park Master Plan to submit with construction grant applications in the upcoming year.

Motion by Jeff Stevenson, 2nd by Ben Kohler

27 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstain

Motion carries

New Business:

4. Discuss process for new trail development once Girdwood Trails Master Plan is complete

Topic that has come up recently is how is the trails approval process streamlined by eventual adoption of the Girdwood Trails Master Plan.

Trails specifically determined in GTP – discussion trends that these are approved in the plan and that the projects will be presented with proposed alignment for GTC review.

Areas determined in GTP but without specific alignments – In the case of the Mtn Bike park, the specifics of their master plan have already been presented and should be considered part of the GTP, requiring only season start review of proposed projects by GTC. Other areas where alignment are not specified, likely require additional local process as they have not yet been reviewed other than the area generally being set aside for that purpose.

Trails in addition to those determined in GTP – Completely new trails will need to undergo full review and be added to the GTP.

Other:

5. September LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives – GTC executive committee will determine reporting to LUC and GBOS. Both are on-line meetings.

6. Reports

- Financial Report - received
- Trails Management Plan Subcommittee Update – no update, this group is on hiatus during GTP
- Trails Plan Subcommittee Update – Trail Plan Subcommittee has completed their task. GTP comments are being reviewed and ideas will be presented with GTP discussion at GTC during approval process. GTC meeting in October may only include GTP review as the agenda. Discussion may continue on to November meeting.
GTC decides to return to 7PM start in October as GTP meetings have concluded.
- Grants Status report –
RTP for Lower INHT project is nearing completion
Alaska Community Foundation grant for Ruane connector has been completed and filed.
KMTA grant for Virgin Creek Falls trail & interp sign is up to date and project on-going, goal is for field work to be completed this fall and interpretive signs installed in Spring 2022.
KMTA grant for Stumpy’s trail has just started.
- GBOS – no report
- Other Girdwood Trail Partners Updates: GNSC is hosting the Girdwood Trails Marathon Oct 2 Bikewood; Girdwild; KMTA; Imagine! Girdwood (GAP) – no additional updates to share.

Adjourn 9:23PM