



Meeting Summary DRAFT

Date: January 20, 2021—5:00 – 8:00pm

Location: Via Zoom

Project: Girdwood Trails Plan Subcommittee Meeting

Girdwood Trails Plan Subcommittee Voting members are defined as Girdwood residents or property owners age 18 years or older who have been appointed by the Girdwood Trails Committee to be a member of this subcommittee. 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.

Attendance

Holly Spoth-Torres (GTP Contractor), Leah Buron (Huddle AK)

Committee Members: Ron Tenny, Deb Essex, Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian, Paul Crews, Carolyn Brodin, Jessica Szelag, Christina Cope-Hendrickson, Amanda Sassi, Nick Georgelos, Eileen Halverson

Not present: Craig Schubert, Brian Burnett, Jonathan Lee

Municipal Staff Members: Kyle Kelley (MOA), Shelley Rowton (MOA HLB)

Members of the Public: Debra Croghan, Barbara Crews, Kalie Harrison

HST calls for meeting to begin.

R. Tenny opens meeting and asks for roll call.

Roll call given by HST. HST begins recording the meeting.

Meeting begins 5:06pm.

R. Tenny asks for approval of the January 20 agenda and asks for comments.

C. Cope Hendrickson made motion to approve

Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian seconded

No discussion, motion passes

Workshop

HST gives overview of the agenda for the workshop.

Exercise 1-Vision Statement

- Discussion on inclusion of “world-class”, decision made to include
- Addition of “aspires to be” world class

P. Crews motion to adopt revised Vision Statement

N. Georgelos seconded

Motion passes

Exercise 1-Goals

Discussion on goals.

- Opinions split on the wording of the goals
- J. Szegal volunteered to redraft wording of the goals in order to make them more forward thinking and worded in a way that will speak to desired objectives. Draft will be sent to HST for distribution to be voted on at next meeting.

N. Georgelos motion to table discussion and vote on goals until the next meeting.

P. Crews seconded

Discussion

Motion passes, item tabled.

Exercise 2-New Trail Classifications, Designed Use

HST overviews how they will walk through edits to the map. She gives recap of how the current version of the map was generated (including compiled input from sub-committee). Accessibility, connectivity, and improving the diversity of the trail system were criteria considered.

What she desires from the committee:

- Agree on intent/goals of what each trail project
- Agree on trail classification and designed use

HST asks Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian to give a summary of the term “natural spaces”.

HST-The goal is to come to a consensus as a group for what they would like to see in the plan.

Becky Germain joins at 6pm.

Lower Valley Area Discussion

1. Wagon Trail – Lower Danich Connection

- Desire to connect Wagon to Danich with an upland connection, creating a loop.
- An additional bridge crossing of Glacier Creek would improve the connectivity of the system eliminating the need for an expensive and potentially unfeasible trailhead along the Seward Highway (#17).
- Separated summer and winter mechanized trails (winter biking west of Glacier Creek/leaning towards no summer biking)
- Consider adding extension of Bird to Gird. Trail
- Class 1 & 2 in the lower valley area

Jonathan Lee joins at 6:11pm.

“meeting” user joins at 6:55pm.

2. Lower Danich Extension out to Seward Highway

- Likely not feasible

3. Alyeska Highway connecting Glacier Ranger District to Lower Iditarod

- End at bike path

4. Beaver Pond to Lower Iditarod

- Avoid wetlands

6. Barren to Alyeska Highway

- Class 3, keep outside natural area boundary

7. Lower Virgin Creek to Upper Virgin Creek

- Trailhead parking will need to be considered – potentially as a future study.

12. Separated Grade Crossing: RR Bridge @ Alyeska Highway
 - Class 4 – similar to lower Iditarod
17. Virgin Creek Natural Area Trailhead along Seward Highway (2 Ideas)
 - Likely not feasible
18. Karolius Trailhead
 - Potential parking (24 cars) and dog park and pump track (south of northern property line)
19. Girdwood Town Center Trailhead – with restroom
 - Potential for parking and signage
 - Add Glacier Creek water trail to town
29. Virgin Creek Natural Area
 - Identify areas of potential development within this area/overlay zoning in order to more accurately represent the natural area

Upper Valley Area Discussion

N. Georgelos gives summary of what is envisioned for a mountain bike area.

Trail Discussion:

8. Glacier Canyon Rim Trail
 - Class 2 hiking-prohibited skjoring, mushing, biking
10. Upper Valley Multi-Use Trail
 - Adjust trail farther east according to input from P. Crews sketch
 - Provide a multi-use loop through the Upper Valley
 - Adjust trail to Class high 3/low 4 skate ski trail
13. Improve the Snowcat Trail for Summer Access above Winner Creek
 - Create downhill only bike trail (south of #13/north is too steep)
 - Class 3/4 multi-use, prohibited skjoring and mushing
 - Consider a sustainable route that is less steep
30. Stumpy's Natural Area
 - Expand natural area boundary to include the entire upper valley – this entire area can be considered a natural area with a range of classes of trails (1-4).
31. Winner Creek Natural Area
 - Adjust boundary to accommodate users from #13 and #32 to reduce user conflict and allow for safe uphill and downhill uses.
32. End of the Snowcat Trail
 - Arlberg Ave. is main access
 - Potential to designate down track for biking which would border #31 near to #13 trail

Shannon joined at 7:40pm

Public Comment

- Would love to see the existing cat track used for either up track or down track, not two new trails put in.
- Provide safer/lower use trails for hiking and snowshoeing that are more family oriented in Lower Valley near Alta/meadows
- Sub-committee should better acknowledge the community's desire for natural spaces and how to serve a broader range of users.

Workshop discussion tabled until next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8pm.