



Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Date: January 5, 2021—6:00 – 7:30pm

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, Jonathon Lee, Eileen Halverson, Jessica Szlag, Christina Cope Hendrickson, Nick Georgelos, Amanda Sassi

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

Members of the Public: Kalie Harrison, Mike Edgington, Barbara Crews, Brianna Sullivan, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Peter Zug, Krystal Hoke, Lin Hinderman, Kate Sandberg, Shannon, Brian Burnette

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 6:02pm.

R. Tenny asks for approval of the January 5 agenda and asks for comments.

C. Cope Hendrickson made motion to approve

D. Essex seconded

No discussion, J. Lee abstained, motion passes

R. Tenny asks for motion to approve December 1 minutes and asks for comments.

C. Cope Hendrickson made motion to approve

J. Szlag seconded

No discussion, J. Lee abstained, motion passes

R. Tenny calls for public comment

Comments:

- Plan is good, but missing a big vision (missing level of impact to be a regional resource vs. just being a community resource).

Q: is this referring to the vision statement or the vision and goals collectively?

A: Both, but focus on a bigger vision statement.

Q: Is this referring to scope or emotional impact?

A: Mostly language, some scope, vision, and long-term plan (i.e., “world class facility” is talked about, but not referenced in the current language).

- Plan should reflect what is attainable in a 10-20 year timeframe.

HST states Values and Vision statement will be reviewed and edited.

NEW BUSINESS

Existing Conditions Report

Public Meeting Activity Summary

HST summarizes how information from the public meeting was assimilated and walks through polling results and public input summaries. She highlights areas that should be adjusted as a result of public input.

HST asks for comments.

- A narrative should be associated with each value for clarity.
 - People connected with the values, but the vision and goals should be reevaluated based on public input (they did not resonate with a high enough percentage of participants).
 - Many of the topics that the public felt were missing have been discussed by the sub-committee, but aren't necessarily reflected in the language.
 - Tweaks should be made, but not too much, given that most people agree with the material.
- The group agreed to schedule a work session to work on adjusting the vision and goals. Input on vision and goals will be asked for in advance of the work session.

Interactive Mapping Comment Summary

HST moves to interactive map summary. She states it is not editable anymore, but it is still live for viewing.

- Almost 500 comments, great participation from a range of different users.
- HST organized comments into trends for inclusion on new map draft.

HST asks for comments on results.

- Noted that this plan will need to have Urban Design Commission (UDC) level detail if it is a goal to avoid having each portion of the plan having to go before UDC.

Existing Conditions Report (general)

HST discusses Existing Conditions report.

- HST asks sub-committee to provide comments to Ex. Conditions report at the same time they provide comments on vision and goals (date TBD).

No discussion

Key Themes, Issues, & Emerging Concepts

HST summarizes key themes and issues as presented in the packet document.

HST asks for comment.

- Assimilation of public input was well done, moving forward it would be interesting to look at the identified projects and see which ones meet trending themes to help prioritize projects.

Heather Durtschi and Eric joined at 6:40pm

Updated Values and Vision (Goals are the same)

HST gives overview of where the Values and Visions are to date.

- HST did a first-round revision incorporating comments from public meeting.
- Sub-Committee to provide comments via Word document and return comments to HST (date TBD)

HST states that portions of the Existing Conditions Report will feed into the final plan.

No discussion

Justin joined at 6:48pm.

DRAFT Trail Plan Map

HST overviews the DRAFT Trail Plan Map, summarizing how she developed the map according to all the committee work and public input to date. She gives a brief description at each numbered notation and highlights areas that will need further discussion.

- Still need to identify trail classification, designed use, or managed use on all the yellow trails. Sub-committee will need to discuss these at a work session.
- HST explains the need for better connectivity using smaller loop systems as part of a larger trails system (formalize larger loop, while improving smaller loop connectivity).
- Yellow trail connections are not exact locations, just identifying the need for connection in that relative location.
- Trails located in green natural areas are intended to be more primitive (Class I & II).
- Proposed trails on draft map do not yet address environmental concerns or property ownership, this will be worked out in future meetings.
- Opportunity to provide circum-valley trail – keep thinking about this concept.
 - Is that a desired goal?
 - Where does it connect?
 - How to promote?
- 1997 Girdwood-Iditarod Trail Route Study referenced

Zoom user joined at 7:02pm, then left

Catherine McDermott and Dinah Merrill joined

HST asks for comments/questions.

Final comments (HST & K. Kelley)

- Sub-committee should be prepared to quickly refine Vision and Goals at work session.
- The next work session will be the time to fine tune the map, most of the time should be focused on refining the map.
- Doodle Poll will be sent out to schedule work session and a specific email with instructions and documents on which to comment will be sent in advance.

R. Tenny calls for adjournment.

Meeting adjourned 7:28pm