



Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Date: December 1, 2020—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 Szelag, Christina Cope Hendrickson, Nick Georgelos

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, Debra Croghan, Brian Burnette, Peter Zug, Diana Stram, Amanda Sassi

HST calls for meeting to begin and begins recording.

R. Tenny asks for roll call.

Roll call given by HST.

Meeting begins 6:03pm.

R. Tenny asks for approval of the December 1 agenda and asks for comments.

E. Halverson makes point of order that A. Sassi has not been officially appointed to the subcommittee via the trails committee and asks K. Kelley for clarification on that.

K. Kelley verifies that is correct and they will be voting on that in the next Girdwood Trails Committee meeting. Amanda was selected to fill Craig Schubert's seat.

HST moves back to December 1 agenda vote.

R. Tenny asks for motion to approve December 1 agenda.

C. Cope Hendrickson made motion to approve

C. Brodin seconded

No discussion, J. Lee abstained, motion passes

R. Tenny asks for motion to approve the October 27 meeting minutes.
D. Essex makes motion to approve
P. Crews seconded
E. Halverson abstained, motion passes

R. Tenny calls for public comment
No comments from public

R. Tenny calls for Old Business

Public Meeting Review

HST gives brief recap:

- Public comment will be open until December 21st
- Over 100 people in attendance (a significant turnout)
- Receiving a lot of comments and input from the public both on the interactive map and a handful in written form, anticipating receiving more before Dec. 21 deadline

HST asks subcommittee to give their input on how they thought the public meeting went and asks K. Kelley to begin discussion.

K. Kelley agrees public meeting went well. He is receiving a lot of positive feedback. He addresses that there was one individual that left inappropriate and targeted comments that he and HST had to address and remove from them from the interactive map. *If subcommittee members would like to discuss this further, they are welcomed to reach out to K. Kelley for more information.*

Discussion on public meeting:

- Q: How best to submit written comments?
A: Send written comments directly to K. Kelley's personal email address (listed on the Parks and Rec. website and the Girdwood Board of Supervisors website) and he will share those with HST.
- The consensus is that the public meeting was a success and that a lot of useful public input is being gathered.
- Consider addressing easements and funding in the master plan.
- Review and fine tune trails classifications.
- Thanks expressed for addressing and removing the "adolescent" comments on interactive map
- Discussion on polygon tool for natural spaces on interactive map:
 - Blue overlay of natural spaces polygon tool made visibility of different map details hard to read for some.
 - HST notes that layers can be turned on and off for better visibility.
 - Suggestion made, and submitted as a written comment, to add other designated areas such as "bike only" or "ski only" to mapping tool to better represent all stakeholders on the map.
 - Others found polygon tool very useful and did not feel that additional designations using a polygon tool are necessary.
- Methow recreation area referenced as good example of a large successful trails system.
- AK is unique in that it is the only state that does not require a paid pass to use the trail systems.
- Areas of potential disagreement:

-Some people would like to see more development than others on public land close to the resort. Subcommittee will need to figure out appropriate level of development for these areas.

-It is apparent that individuals have differing definitions of “natural areas”.

- Certain definitions will need to be better defined by subcommittee (i.e. the word “recreation”), definitions should be reviewed in accordance with the Girdwood Area Plan.

- HST explains that the subcommittee is ahead of the public in their visioning and values exercises and therefore a more generalized format of values was presented at the public meeting. The second public meeting will focus on the trail plan map.
- Emphasis made that all community user groups are served based on the values defined from input gathered.
- Clarification is requested and then made that interactive mapping tool is meant for both the public as well as members of the subcommittee to leave feedback.
- If anyone is having trouble finding or navigating the interactive mapping tool and needs additional accommodations HST, K. Kelley and C. Cope Hendrickson offered assistance. K. Kelley to make the interactive mapping link broadcast better on the GBOS website. *HST gives quick tutorial on how to find interactive map link.*

R. Tenny moves to New Business

HST overviews next steps:

- Public comment closes December 21.
- January subcommittee meeting will be a loaded agenda.
- HST will send out packet prior to meeting and asks subcommittee members to do their homework and come prepared to the January meeting.
- Existing conditions report will be included in the packet will include:
 - existing trail network maps
 - corrected trails classifications tables
 - public meeting summary
 - summary of public comments/feedback
 - updated DRAFT vision and goals
 - Plan outline
 - DRAFT plan map for discussion
- Feb. 2 will focus on the first draft of the trail plan. Meeting packet will include a second draft of the trail plan map and a first draft of the plan narrative (not complete). HST is anticipating the need for another work session between Jan. 5 and Feb. 2 since there is so much material to cover.
- Second public meeting to follow January and February meetings
 - most likely in late February or early March.
 - By public meeting subcommittee will have come to consensus on draft plan map that exhibits future conditions for public review and comment.
 - Draft plan and draft plan map will be available for public comment at that time.

HST opens meeting to discussion.

- Q: Will HST be drafting the new map for the Jan. 5 meeting based on all of the comments coming in.
A: HST-Yes, will present a draft trail plan map. Will likely highlight areas of conflict for larger discussion and collaboration by the subcommittee.

- The group discussed how to incorporate project budgets/funding into the plan
 - Some sort of budget should be included in plan.
 - There needs to be a mechanism to prioritize public funds.
 - The scope of the GTS plan is meant to be visionary; budget is beyond the scope of this plan
 - Budget should be considered in order to ensure that the goals are realistic.
 - Budget is a useful tool in order to make the plan a reality when funding options become available. Also, helpful to be able to show which elements have community backing and support when seeking funding.

Views were split on this topic.

HST reiterates how much work will need to be done in January and February and that a work session will likely be necessary. K. Kelley agrees and asks people to be prepared to do homework over the holidays.

R. Tenny opens meeting up for public comment.

L. Buron asks for people in meeting identified with numbers to state names for the record.

Public Comment:

- Discussion about Girdwood Alliance having a trails survey on their Facebook page and that the timing was confusing.
- How is the topic of comment anonymity being addressed?
HST- The intention is to collect comments and group them by theme vs. highlighting who made the comment.
- Discussion on HLB lands:
 - If HLB plans to subdivide that information may be relevant to the subcommittee.
 - Any future trail easements that go through HLB land would be issued as relocatable. This trail plan is helpful for HLB to determine what trail locations are important to the community in order to plan for the future.

Alex Davis joins at 7:04.

- More discussion on the term “natural spaces” and how it is defined. *Continued disagreement on how this term should be defined. More work needed in future on this topic. Recommended to make one-page definition of “natural spaces.”*
- The Girdwood Trails Plan should be in harmony with the Girdwood Area Plan.

R. Tenny calls for adjournment.

C. Cope Hendrickson motion to adjourn.

R. Tenny seconded

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm