



DRAFT Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2021
6:00 – 7:30 pm
Location: Girdwood Community Room
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.

All meetings are recorded and available to public as part of the public record.

Attendance

Holly Spoth-Torres (GTP Contractor), Jessy Post (Huddle AK)

Committee Members: Ron Tenny, Paul Crews, Carolyn Brodin, Jonathon Lee, Eileen Halverson, Christina Cope Hendrickson, Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian

Not in attendance: Nick Georgelos, Jessica Szelag, Amanda Sassi, Deb Essex

Municipal Staff Members: Kyle Kelley (MOA), Margaret Tyler (MOA)

Members of the Public: Briana Sullivan, Barbara Crews, Mike Edgington, Kalie Harrison, Heather Durtschi, Sue LeLevier

HST asks for meeting to begin and starts recording.

R. Tenny opens meeting and asks for roll call.

Roll call given by HST.

Meeting begins 6:05pm.

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

C. Cope Hendrickson made motion to approve

C. Brodin seconded

No discussion, motion passes

R. Tenny asks for motion to approve May 11 meeting minutes.

C. Cope Hendrickson made motion to approve

P. Crews seconded
No discussion, motion passes

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Girdwood Trail Plan Open House: June 24, 2021: 7 PM – 8:30 PM, Girdwood Community Room In-Person + Virtual, Self-Guided Format

HST shared the process for the public meeting on June 24. It will be an open house style meeting to allow the public to show up anytime between 6-7:30pm. There will be four stations accompanied by large visual boards:

1. Welcome: Sign in and packet pick-up with information on how to participate and make comments. Station rep: Jessy from Huddle.
2. Introduction: Information about the plan, including vision, values, goals and themes. Station rep: Bri from Huddle.
3. Existing Conditions: Four visual boards including existing trails map, trail classification, trail length, and land ownership map. Station rep: Holly & Kyle.
4. Proposed Trail & Natural Space Network: Two large copies of proposed trails and natural space map, legend, and project descriptions. Station rep: Holly & Kyle.

The packet is meant to be taken home and will have information on how to participate and comment, with the proposed trail and natural space map, project descriptions, and a comment card. The comment period is from June 24 – July 26.

K. Kelley-Q: Can we change the time of the open house to be 7-8:30pm? Agenda says 6:00-7:30.
A: HST-Yes. We'll change to 7-8:30pm.

E. Halverson-Concerned that the one GTP public meeting is being held in the middle of the summer.
HST-The open house information will be available online as well. We are working with staff to create a separate GTP landing page to make it easier to find information.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian-Q: Can they also download the packet on the website?
A: HST-Yes.

E. Halverson-Q: Will people be able to make comments by marking up the map, like last time?

A: HST-A fillable PDF form will be available online. To comment, the public will list project names and/or numbers and describe it versus placing a comment on the map.

E. Halverson-Q: Can we get a copy of the map?

A: HST-Yes, you can get a copy the same day as the public on June 24.

E. Halverson-Q: At the public meeting, do you want us to attend to answer questions?

A: HST-Yes. It would be beneficial if you could answer questions about the plan.

C. Cope Hendrickson-I think to better inform the public and answer questions, it would be helpful if the subcommittee could study the plan before the open house. Q: Can we have a copy in advance?

A: HST: Yes, we'll have hard copies you can pick up from K. Kelley or view an online PDF.

Draft Girdwood Trail Plan Public Comment Period: June 24 – July 26, 2021

Discussion:

E. Halverson-Thinks 30 days is a short window to comment in the summer.

HST: The committee wanted to keep the 30-day comment period to keep the process moving.

K. Kelley-We'll also use social media to help inform the public on the comment period.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian-Q: Will comments in the subcommittee review spreadsheet that were not addressed be included in the public comments, so they won't have to be made again?

A: HST-Yes, all comments will be carried forward.

HST-Comments will be put into a table and she and K. Kelley will have to decide whether to take that to the Trails Committee.

K. Kelley-We'd like to aim for early September to return comments and a draft back to the committee. We are open to discussing how to proceed with comments.

HST outlined next potential steps after comments have been reviewed. The next draft could go to:

1. Trails Committee; then
2. GBOS; then
3. HLB Advisory Commission; then
4. Planning and Zoning Commission; then
5. UDC.

R. Tenny-Thinks the comments should go back to the committee for one last look before moving them to the next step. It's only appropriate that we sign off on any changes.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian-Also likes idea of having comments back to subcommittee before moving on to the Trails Committee.

P. Crews-We spent a lot of time on the vision, values, and goals, and not as much time on map. I don't think we came to consensus. If we can see public comments, have a public work session that only includes discussion, we could provide Holly and Kyle final direction before the plan moves on.

C. Cope Hendrickson-If we reconvene in September for a working session that is public, it will be difficult to get things done with a large public crowd, and we would still have to take public comment. A public fall meeting could push the project back another year.

J. Lee-Maybe we can have a private work session with a public presentation? He would like to see the comments come back to this subcommittee before moving the plan forward.

HST-The intent of this process and plan is public. Q: Is this group is willing to change the course of the plan based on the comments from the public?

A: J. Lee-Yes. It's part of our job.

E. Halverson-Q: Do we have a separate summer and winter map? It's hard to distinguish between trails on one map.

A: HST-These trails are differentiated on the Existing Trail map. We'll have a large version of that map.

P. Crews-We should be asking, "what is our goal with this trail?" instead of using class system.

C. Cope Hendrickson—Suggested adding a few sentences to the info packet, “Please refer to Page X for trail classification.”

R. Tenny—Called to end the discussion. We know where a lot of conflict areas are. We need the public to speak and let the consultants make recommendations based on those comments. Then let this subcommittee review before moving the plan on. We hired consultants to look at this plan from another perspective. If the community wants to get more involved, they can attend a GTC meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Comment

B. Crews—Referring to the comment card, asking questions that are open ended can make it difficult to receive meaningful comments. You need to ask questions with direction. You’ll get a better return on what you’re looking for.

S. Le Levier—#2 comment card: suggests asking “what concerns you about the plan?” instead of “what do you not like?”

B. Crews—#3 comment card: suggests adding the question “what would you like to add to the plan?” versus only asking what is missing to make it more balanced.

H. Durtschi—Order the stations and questions in relation to outcomes you are looking for. At the open house and in the packet, swap the order of vision and goals with proposed projects so the public can spend more time reading through that section.

M. Edgington—Has concerns with the process of this plan. He doesn’t believe comments need to come back to subcommittee. If you’ve missed something, that’s where the community comments come in. This group should not be a gate keeper to the public’s comments.

K. Harrison—The idea of consensus has been hard for this group. Now the work needs to go beyond this subcommittee. Bringing public comments back for the subcommittee to review will be an added expense. Let the public provide input and then let the plan move forward.

J. Lee—Q: Do we need a formal motion to move forward?

A: HST-No.

Concluding Thoughts:

This subcommittee will meet again in September to review all the public comments before moving forward to the GTC.

Meeting Adjourns

R. Tenny calls for adjournment.

J. Lee motion to adjourn

C. Brodin seconded

Meeting adjourned 7:18 pm