

**Girdwood Trails Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Girdwood Community Center, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 1, 2011**

Call to Order

Carolyn Brodin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Kate Sandberg took minutes. Others present were Diana Livingston, Eileen Halverson, Teresa Paquet, Debra Croghan, Dwaine Schuldt, Michelle Tenny, Jonnie Lazarus, Deb Essex, Kyle Kidder, Jim Braham, Norman Starkey, and David Chadwick, GBOS.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes, January 4, 2010

The minutes were approved.

Introduction of Guests

Many members from Gold Stitchers came to participate in the quilt drawing, and other community members also came to attend the meeting. Those who want to receive Trails emails and documents are Ally Goens, Susan Opalka, Beth Sirles, Ginny Grupp, Christina Orlandella, and Reuben Gerber.

AWWU employees David Persinger and Tom Winkler and Agew::Beck consultant Chris Beck attended for a presentation.

Quilt Drawing

Gabrielle Hoessle of Girdwood was the winner. Carolyn called her, and the Gold Stitchers will deliver the quilt. The Committee thanked the Stitchers for their efforts on behalf of the Trails Committee.

Old Business

Trail Issues

- **AWWU and Iditarod Trail**—Chris Beck explained that AWWU has decided to improve their facility on Ruane Road in two phases, rather than one as previously announced. He explained that the new buildings and other improvements will not adversely affect the section of the Iditarod Trail that crosses AWWU property. The Trail currently appears to follow a narrow dirt road situated on a berm, and this is not expected to be moved. AWWU does not anticipate closing the trail while working on the improvements.

MOTION: The Girdwood Trails Committee passes a verbal resolution to approve the AWWU plan as presented by AWWU and Chris Beck. (Diana and seconded by Deb E.) Motion passed unanimously.

- Hand Tram and Destroyed Cable Rope—Jonnie announced that the RAC grant application evaluation looks encouraging, but a demonstration of community monetary support would help the application. After discussion of this and how to deal with the rope issue, the Committee decided to dedicate Girdwood, Inc. funds to the tram rehabilitation if the RAC grant is awarded. Deb Essex said that we have Alpine Air's support of airtime. We also have volunteer efforts of work over the last ten years.

MOTION: The Girdwood Trails Committee approves the use of the \$3,000 Parks and Recreation budget for tram improvements and \$7,000 from our Girdwood, Inc. funds to show RAC our seriousness to fix the hand tram. (Dwayne and seconded by Diana) Motion passed unanimously.

It was further agreed that: The motion is moot if we don't get the RAC grant; Jonnie, Kate and Carolyn will write the letter this month to the RAC evaluation committee; the new rope is included in this amount; and Jonnie will contact Dave Wilson to find out if he can provide an estimate for the total work to include in the letter, and Teresa will pursue a Tier One Rasmusson grant.

Deb Croghan announced that the Forest Fair Committee would like to contribute to a 10th anniversary celebration of the hand tram, and members acknowledged this would be much appreciated. The celebration will be planned at a later date. Dwayne will contact the Anchorage Visitors and Conventions Bureau.

Jonnie mentioned that the USFS has an IT person coming for security cams, and members agreed they need to talk to this person for "tram cams."

- Grooming—Deb E. said that Brian Burnett did not hold a groomers meeting this past month. Carolyn will contact Sean before he leaves town.

Budget and Grants

Diana said that Trails has \$15,124.82 on account with Girdwood Inc.

Moose Meadow Trailhead Design

On behalf of the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club, Tina Carlisle gave a presentation for the corner area of Arlberg and Aspen as a trailhead. She explained the safety, congestion, access, and aesthetic issues and her remedies for this area. All agreed that the corner needs to be reconstructed and that access to Moose Meadow needs to be through the back of the parking lot for safety reasons.

Contributions to Tina's design were a viewing platform for the meadow and a stationary restroom. The group liked the proposed signage, snow storage, kiosk placement, and the back access to the Meadow. After discussion, Tina will bring back alternative designs to the Committee that do not have vehicles entering or exiting on Aspen, which was the main concern of the group. Drainage also needs to be addressed.

Updates

- Nordic Ski Club—Construction of the trail has stopped and it is closed. The group has 2,200 feet left to construct.
- Search and Rescue Process—Carolyn relayed that she had talked to Chief Chadwick, and they agreed that a good map was the first step for rescues. They agreed the map key and easily-read, well-placed signs were the next steps for all concerned.
- Memorandum of Understanding—Jonnie mentioned that John Rodda told her that he has now sent the document back to MOA Legal.
- New Trails Map—Carolyn presented the preliminary draft of the Girdwood trails map. She thanked Todd for his timely work, and because of this, we will be able to produce a map this spring/summer for the community and tourists.

After discussion, it was agreed to have Todd draft a separate winter and summer map to eliminate the confusing number of colors and trails on the current draft.

Among the needed changes are:

1. Own color--Snowcat Trail
2. Own color—New Nordic Trail and signify as multi-use
3. Change to avoid confusion--Bike path circle around resort
4. Remove—Pink line linking North Face to cat track
5. Better Contrasting color—Indistinct Routes on key
6. Confusing--Turn-off for Stumpy's Winter Trail. Change
7. Make one color—Year-round use trails
8. Remove—Parking keys for Lower Virgin Creek and Girdwood School
9. Make One—Make the entire trail to the trailhead at CA Creek the Beaver Pond Trail

New Business

Trails Committee will ask for a volunteer each month to report to GBOS. Diana may be available for this month.

Other Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

**Next meeting is March 1, 2011
Girdwood Community Center, 7:00 pm**