

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

Call to Order

Carolyn Brodin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Jonnie Lazarus recorded the minutes. Others present were Norman Starkey, Brian Burnett, Sue Kennedy, Todd Foisy, and new GBOS Parks and Recreation Representative, Janice Crocker.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes, May 3, 2011

The May minutes were approved.

Introduction of Guests

None

Old Business

Trail Issues

- *Hand Tram Issues, Rope Replacement Summary*—The rope has been replaced, although there are some reports of it being hard to pull. Jonnie has submitted a small article to the *Turnagain Times* to say that the rope is, for now, hard to pull. The Committee will address this difficulty in the refurbishing project. We will also have the anniversary celebration after the refurbishing is completed.

- *Beaver Pond Trail and Survey*—Jonnie had no information on the easements, but she has shown the surveyors for the MOA Girdwood's CA Creek and Abe's Trails. The Committee will discuss next month on whether or not to request further survey funding from GBOS. Brian walked with surveyors this past month to show them Abe's and CA Creek trail.

- *Moose Meadow Trailhead/Parking Lot*—Jonnie presented the concept of the trailhead to LUC and will go next Monday to GBOS. Only the planning would take place in the coming year. The USFS, MOA, Trails Committee, and the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club all have an interest in developing a sustainable, practical trailhead with parking lot. The Trails Committee is not in favor of the second egress onto Aspen because of neighbors' objections, problems with traffic on Aspen, and the egress will be blocked in winter by snow piles anyway.

- *Response to Chugach State Park New Draft Plan*—This will be on the July agenda for further discussion. Trails Committee members are encouraged to download the plan and read at least the sections that apply to the Turnagain Arm and

Girdwood areas. There is a new insertion (page 71) from the last draft to dissolve the current agreement with DMLW and hand the CA Creek trailhead over to GBOS.

Responses to the plan are due September 9. Janice will introduce the plan at the July GBOS meeting and have it addressed again in August for a written response to Chugach State Park by 9/9. Carolyn or Brian will announce the plan and its deadline in the Trails report at the June LUC and GBOS meetings. Website for downloading is <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chugach/manageplanchug.html>

- *Other Trail Issues*—Signs created last year by senior high students need to be put up for those trails. A volunteer is needed.

Budget and Grants

Planning for the GBOS budget will begin earlier than in the past years. Trails Committee will address the following at July's meeting:

1. Do we want to ask for more survey funding (\$6,000-\$12,000) next year or ask for trail work funds instead?
2. Do we want to ask for funding for printing trail maps next year?
3. Do we want to apply for a grant or ask for funding for a major sign for Beaver Pond trailhead?
4. Do we want to include paying Dave Wilson to inspect the tram two-three times a year (\$75/hour) in our budget?
5. How many winter maps do we want to print for 2011-12 and what is the cost?

Summer Crew Plans

Jonnie announced that three Youth in the Parks (YIP) crews will spend four 10-hour days working to improve the Beaver Pond Trail during the second week of July. She and Brian took a park planner, trail builders, and the YIP crew leader out to evaluate the type of work needed for the Y section of the trail where the summer and winter trails split. This portion of the trail needs the most work. These professionals thought that they could keep the work within the 50' easement. Board work will be needed, possibly steps; however, bicyclists will be able to use the trail.

The YIP crew chiefs will come out the July 4 weekend to set up, and all understand that it may take two summers to complete this project. Brian will see if Alpine Air will airlift boards to the site. YIP crews will use ATVs to bring in materials.

New Trails Maps Distribution

After thanking Todd for his incredible work, members decided to give one box (100 count) of maps to Girdwood Ski and Cyclery, Alyeska Resort, and the USFS. The last two boxes of maps will be handed out to the Tourist Trap, Java Haus, GBOS, Land Use, and others. Jonnie will keep the extras in her office for any further distribution. These maps cost \$0.82 a page. We will ask that the merchant to display the map and give out maps as requested.

The pdf. map is already online under Girdwood Trails Committee (MOA) <http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Documents/GWSummerTrlMap.pdf>. Brian will tell the Resort web master to add the online address to its pages.

Updates

- *Conex Crew Work Summary*—John and his crew finished the roof of the conex. All agreed it is a beautiful job. Scott Capshaw, a local minister, has a volunteer crew coming this summer, and he will lead them in painting the conex and brushing out nettles.
- *June GBOS Meeting Representative*—Brian will go. Carolyn will go to Land Use.

New Business

Approval for Membership with Alaska Trails

This will be discussed and voted on next meeting. Brian said that this group is becoming the umbrella group for trails in Alaska. All members are asked to look at the website <http://www.alaska-trails.org/> to form an opinion. Cost is \$50/year.

Other Business

Jonnie mentioned that Dave Wilson, the only certified tram inspector in Alaska, does not have business insurance. Parks and Recreation recently has paid him \$75/hour, and he also voluntarily inspected the hand tram for many years before that. The Trails Committee has two options for semi-annual inspection: Dave or Superior Tramways in Washington state. The Committee will decide whether or not to hire Dave next month.

**Next Meeting—July 5, 2011
Girdwood Community Center, 7:00 pm**