

**Girdwood Trails Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Girdwood Community Center, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 4, 2011**

Call to Order

Carolyn Brodin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Kate Sandberg took minutes. Others present were Norman Starkey, Jonnie Lazarus, Alison Rein, Carol Sanner, Eileen Halverson, Kyle Kidder, Janice Crocker, and Brian Burnett.

Approval of Agenda

No action.

Approval of Minutes, September 6, 2011

The minutes were approved as written.

Introduction of Guests

Aaron Christie and Kevin Doniere, Dowl HKM, introduced themselves and were welcomed for their presentation about improving Olympic Mountain Loop.

New Business

Kevin Doniere showed two conceptual plans for Olympic Mountain Loop based on one-way and two-way traffic. Changes to the current situation involve more parking, clear traffic patterns, lighting, pedestrian paths (location, steep grade, prevalent icing), crossings, and bus stops. Particular concerns of the Trails Committee were the composition and location of the paths, location of the bus stop, adequate lighting for pedestrians, and the safety of those using the crosswalks across Arlberg.

Kevin and Aaron will take the ideas and concerns into consideration when designing the loop.

Old Business

Trail Issues

- *Hand Tram Renovation*—Jonnie reported that she is still waiting to hear from Aerial Tramways engineers about the date of their visit to Girdwood. She will email the committee when she has a date.

Jim Braham inspected the tram in September and reported that the tension in the rope is off. Norman will take care of this during October.

- *Squirrel Cage Land and Trails*—Brian said that HLB is no longer interested in taking the latest proposal forward, so it is no longer an issue.
- *Deb's Way Permits*—Brian has communicated with the AK Girdwood airport manager, and she will take a look at the location of Deb's Way to see if permits

are desirable. The path is located on an easement from the state to AAWU, which has underground utilities there. Some members expressed concerns about ditching and working on this easement.

- *Winter Grooming*—Jonnie will email all 2010-11 groomers and send out paperwork for this year. She will ask Kevin McDermott to take the snow machine to Anchorage for tuning.

Brian said that Girdwood Nordic Ski Club would contribute to fuel costs.

- *Letter to USFS—Bridge*—The Committee clarified that the discussion is about a possible bridge over Glacier Creek next to the tram. (The USFS has already begun work on a replacement bridge over the Winner Creek Gorge.)

There still is no clear consensus among members, so we will continue to discuss The topic each month.

- *Other Trail Issues*
Alison mentioned that DOT came to Girdwood and showed conceptual improvements to the Seward Highway, M75-90. Kate will send in a comment to DOT on behalf of the Trails Committee to request a pedestrian bike path for the entire segment that does not jeopardize wetlands.

Budget and Grants

Jonnie announced that GBOS approved all of Trails requested funds. Those are:

Hand Tram	\$ 6,000
3 Weeks Trail Work	20,000
Conex	600
Materials	5,000
Winter grooming eq.	1,500
Fuel	1,500

No survey or oil & lube funding requested.

Members thanked Jonnie for her hard work to secure these funds.

Response to Chugach State Park New Draft Plan

Members agreed that the Trails Committee does not have enough information to respond to the new plan, specifically the CA Creek Trailhead, in time for the deadline, October 31. The trailhead is on state DMW land and managed by Chugach. Kyle suggested Brian call Adam Smith (DMW) for information.

Updates

- MoU-MOA Legal—Janice Crocker, GBOS Parks and Recreation Supervisor,

worked with John Rodda, MOA Parks and Recreation, to get the MoU finished for approval. Jonnie then changed the small details of new signees and GBOS changes.

The Committee approved the document with the following changes:

1. Glacier District USFS has changes that are required by the Forest Service. Janice will bring those to John Rodda, and Glacier District employees will check again.
2. Change the ending date to be five full years from signing.

Kyle Kidder told the Committee that Alaska DNR-Mining, Land, and Water would like to comment on the agreement, but not request changes. Mining, Land, and Water requests that anyone wanting to work on state lands within the Girdwood Valley apply for a Land Use Permit (LUP). LUPs for work on trail development or maintenance will be needed if the use is beyond the state's generally allowed uses, regardless of easements.

- Moose Meadow Trailhead—Jonnie said that GBOS agreed conceptually to the trail head plan; however, they did not approve funds for the planning or construction. This issue will be addressed by the Trails Committee at a later date.
- October GBOS Meeting Representative—Brian or Carolyn will attend.

Other Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting---November 1, 2011
Girdwood Community Center, 7:00 p.m.**