**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

**Girdwood Community Center, 7:00 pm**

**Tuesday, July 6, 2010**

**Call to Order**

Carolyn Brodin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Jonnie Lazarus recorded the meeting. Others present were Brian Burnett, Dwaine Schuldt, and Diana Livingston.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as written with the addition of AAWU/Holtan Hills in New Business.

**Approval of Minutes, June 1, 2010**

The minutes were approved as written. Kate will send them to Bill Mehner and Alison Smith.

**Introduction of Guests**

None

**Old Business**

*Trails Issues*

* Hand Tram Maintenance: Brian checked out the tram on June 19 and found all parts to be in fine working order. The latch still needs to be fixed, and the car bumps into the landing on the south side. Brian will check it out again in July. Jonnie will order the new cable this month.
* Other Trail Issues: Jonnie reported that the bike path will be closed this week at the Moose Meadow parking lot.

*Budget and Grants*

• Anchorage Park Foundation Grant Result: We did not get any grant funding. Anchorage Parks Foundation said that the selection committee decided to fund only to parks, not trails. Jonnie will ask if we can see our scores.

*Beaver Pond Trail System—Permit, Easement, Survey*

Jonnie asked Alison Smith to expand and extend our Beaver Pond Trail permit so that SAGA crews can improve the trail this year, not just brush it. Alison will get back to us. Dwaine is willing to go to any Assembly or HLB Advisory Board meeting to represent the Trails Committee.

Members discussed the high cost of surveys for trail easements and how we can raise that amount of funding for every trail that we want protected. Hopefully, the National Park Service and Chugach State Park GPS figures already gathered for all our trails will help alleviate some costs. The group reconfirmed to go ahead with the HLB survey and easement process for Beaver Pond Trail.

This fall we would like to clarify the easement process with HLB.

*SAGA/Other Work Crews Priorities*

The priorities for SAGA this year are 1) improving the Beaver Pond Trail, 2) brushing the upper part of Abe’s Trail, and 3) cutting back brush next to Alyeska Bike Path that interferes with sight for safety.

*New Trails Map*

Carolyn reported that Carl Madsen (USFS) was unable to help her finish the map. Carolyn will try again this month. Todd Foisy may be able to work on it if Carl is unable to help.

*Conexes*

John Gallup has installed the two conexes with the help of Alyeska Resort or McKenna. It was agreed that John has, once again, done incredible work. Each conex will need at least two 4-6” vents that David Chadwick will install. It was agreed that a winter-neutral color is best, but committee members will check with neighbors near the conexes to see what they think.

*Moose Meadow Park Dedication*

Jonnie reported that Alison Smith (HLB) is not sure if Bill Mehner will approve the dedication of Tract H, R, and D of Moose Meadow from HLB to Parks & Recreation. Jonnie will contact Bill to see if we may go ahead with the dedication process.

Motion made by Diana and seconded by Dwaine: *The Girdwood Trails Committee approves dedicating major tract H and smaller tracts R and D, and we will work with HLB to pursue this dedication.*

Passed unanimously.

*Girdwood Trails Master Plan*

Brian will improve his draft of the Trails Master Plan in the next few weeks and send it to Trails members for changes. Then we will send it to several HLB and Parks and Recreation administrators as a working draft. This working draft needs the trails matrix completed as well as trails descriptions.

*Updates*

* Memorandum of Understanding—no report but it was agreed to dedicate more time and effort next month. Carolyn will send out the document and ask each member present to take a section and work on it.
* Alyeska Bike Path Repairs—Carolyn reported that the repairs are completed at $17,000.
* Quilters’ Raffle—this is postponed until December’s Christmas Bazaar
* Fungus Fair Auction—Members are starting to collect items. The next Trails meeting will focus on this event.

**New Business**

AWWU’s contractor has alarmed some community members with their flagging of a 60’ wide water line clearing in Holtan Hills. However, AWWU is aware of issue and will reflag and walk the proposed line with USFS and Parks and Recreation employees. They are aware of the location of the Iditarod Trail and its easement and the desire to save as many trees as possible. AWWU employees are walking the route with Jonnie, Parks and Recreation, and Alison Rein, USFS.

**Other Business**

* The Committee discussed when the painting of the cage of the bike path bridge over the railroad may happen. It was agreed this is not on anyone’s priority list.
* Brian will go out with SAGA crews the first week, and Norman will be asked to do the second week.
* The Forest Fair Campground fees raised $2,000-3,000 for Parks and Recreation. Dwaine will talk about this more next month.
* The next meeting will be August 10 at either the Community Center or Alyeska Day Lodge.
* Our preliminary decision on the budget is for Jonnie to ask for the same amount from GBOS as last year. This will be discussed in August.
* Brian will send a draft of a thank-you letter to Granite for giving us the fabric for the conex base. He’ll send it to Jonnie for letterhead stationery.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.

**Next meeting is August 10, 7:00 pm, at the Girdwood Community Center.**