**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

**Girdwood Community Center, 7:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, November 1, 2011**

**Call to Order**

Brian Burnett called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Eileen Halverson took minutes. Others present were Norman Starkey, Carol Sanner, Kyle Kidder, Jim Braham, Dana Durham, Michelle Tenny, Diana Livingston and David Ilse

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as written.

**Approval of Minutes, October 4, 2011**

The minutes were approved as written.

**Introduction of Guests**

David Ilse introduced himself as a forest service employee.

**Old Business**

**Trail Issues**

***Hand Tram Renovation***

Brian e-mailed Aerial Tramways. They confirmed they are coming, but did not give him a date. Diana mentioned the RAC grant funds ($50,000 held by the Forest Service for hand tram engineering upgrade recommendations, a maintenance schedule/manual and materials) need to be used by December 2012. Brian will send out an e-mail if he gets a date from Aerial Tramways.

***Winter Grooming***

The Nordic Ski Club 5K loop trail has been fully cut, but the felled trees have not been removed. Delayed funds may come through early next year and there is a possibility for machinery on the trail in February to remove the deadfall; until then expect out and back skiing like last year. The skiable 3K on this trail brings the total groomed trails in Girdwood to approximately 8K. It takes about five hours to groom all the trails. Brian announced that the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club will fund $2000 toward fuel for the grooming sled this winter.

There will be a meeting at the Day Lodge on November 8, 2011 at 7pm for groomers. Brian will email notice of the meeting to last year’s groomers. Anyone interested in grooming is welcome to attend.

There will be a groomer from the Anchorage Nordic Ski Club hosting a groomers’ clinic in December (snow dependent)

Eric Flora will offer a free cross-country ski-waxing clinic at the Race Training Center on November 19, 2011 from 4-6pm.

***Beaver Pond Trail Work***

The switchbacks on the far end completely washed out in the rain. There was good work done by the Youth in Parks trail crew this summer.

***Letter to USFS—Bridge***

No action.

***Other Trail Issues***

Kyle investigated the California Creek Trailhead area referenced in the Chugach State Park New Draft Plan. There are approximately 3.3 acres of land by the California Creek bridge on Crow Creek road dedicated since the 1960s. The municipality rejected the parcel for HLB in 1978 and in 1980 the State of Alaska DNR-DLMW entered an Interagency Land Management Agreement (ILMA) with Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The ILMA is valid for 40 years. Kyle spoke with Matt Wedeking and got the impression Parks would be willing to dissolve the agreement. The parcel would be difficult to develop as a trailhead anyway due to its shape. Since a line survey already exists Kyle suggests developing an easement for Abe’s trail instead.

Kyle works for DNR developing easements on state land for trails. His position is supported by grants. He is gathering letters of support for the grants and hopes to have them by November 15, 2011. Brian will forward a sample letter of support for Kyle’s grant-supported position to all trails committee members for individual action. A letter of support from the trails committee will be on the agenda next month for a vote.

**Budget and Grants**

No discussion.

**Updates**

***MoU-MOA Legal***

Janice Crocker, GBOS Parks and Recreation Supervisor, reported via email that John Rodda, MOA Parks and Recreation, received the updated Forest Service Agreement and the document is in legal. John Rodda does not anticipate it taking very long to get signed.

Kyle Kidder reports the Alaska State DNR-DLMW (Department of Natural Resources-Division of Land, Mining and Water) needs to be added as one of the “parties of interest” on the agreement. His manager’s manager, Richard Thompson (SC regional land manager) wants to be a signer on the agreement. Eileen will inform Jonnie, Kate and Janice of this addition.

***Deb’s Way Permits***

There was consensus for improved drainage. The path is located on an AWWU utility easement on DOT land. If the easement agreement can be found with AWWU, it is possible that DOT would not have to be involved. Typically, however easement agreements are difficult to find. There was no update from the airport manager about potential permits or permission to improve the trail.

***November GBOS Meeting Representative***

Brian will attend.

**New Business**

Voting by email for qualifying members was discussed. Most people thought it would be difficult as there is usually a good deal of discussion by those present at the meeting before any votes are taken. This topic will be addressed again next meeting.

**Other Business**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

**Next Meeting---December 6, 2011**

**Girdwood Community Center, 7:00 p.m.**