**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

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

**Tuesday, January 4, 2011**

**Call to Order**

Carolyn Brodin called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m. Kate Sandberg took minutes. Others present were Diana Livingston, Eileen Halverson, Teresa Paquet, Todd Foisy, Carol Sanner, Karen Zaccaro, Brian Burnett, Alison Rein, Debra Croghan, Dwaine Schuldt, Tom Yeager, Michelle Tenny, and Jonnie Lazarus.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with the postponement of the Moose Meadow Trailhead Design and the addition of an Anchorage School District presentation.

**Approval of Minutes, December 7, 2010**

The minutes were approved with two minor corrections.

**Introduction of Guests**

Kathy Recken, Girdwood K-8 Principal, and Mary Cary, Anchorage School District (ASD) Facilities Project Manager, introduced themselves and presented Girdwood School’s construction plans for the next ASD bond package vote.

If the package passes, ASD will have funding to produce construction documents for Girdwood School. Kathy and Mary will return to Trails after the documents are drafted and discuss school and land plans. The Athabascan Trail is the only trail probably impacted with probable construction. The trail will be realigned if necessary and most likely improved.

Comments should be sent to the GBOS.

**Old Business**

*Trail Issues*

Grooming

Sean Stash, lead groomer, and his wife, Lisa Portune, are moving to Idaho. The Trails Committee thanked Sean and Lisa for all their work with Trails. Sean has led the grooming effort for several years, and their departure is a loss to the community. Brian and Todd will call a meeting of all Trails Committee groomers with the Nordic Ski Club.

Other Trail Issues

*Rescue Plan for Girdwood Trails--*The committee discussed the need to work with the Girdwood Volunteer Fire Department to develop a rescue plan for Girdwood trails. Carolyn will follow-up with Rich Parry. Carol Sanner suggested an interagency effort for rescues in the valley. She will contact the Alaska Mountain Rescue group.

*Hand Tram Vandalism*—From photographs and firsthand evaluation, the hand tram rope appears to have been intentionally cut through to the metal cable. This apparent vandalism was first noticed December 28, so the tram was closed for the winter on December 31. Jim Braham and Kathy Peters secured the cart for the winter. The KEUL staff made an announcement about the closure; Brian will send in an announcement about the vandalism and subsequent closure to the *Turnagain Times;* and Alison will write an article for the *Times*.

Jonnie has called Superior Tramways about alternative types of cables and notified the Troopers, GBOS, and MOA. Members discussed the use of web cams and battery-operated spy cams, but more information is necessary. It was decided to see what the community thinks of this winter’s closure before deciding to close the tram in future winters.

*Budget and Grants*

*American Hiking Society Grant Application*—Teresa and Jonnie reported that they submitted application, and results will be announced in April. Members thanked them for their work.

*Moose Meadow Trailhead Design*

Postponed until next month.

*Updates*

Nordic Ski Club—Brian reported that the loop continues to be built, but progress is slow.

Memorandum of Understanding—Kate said that John Rodda called, and he has the new draft that has been through the legal department and HLB. He will contact the Trails Committee when he has approved it. Trails will send the document on to the USFS.

New Trails Map—Todd has volunteered to create the 2011 map from earlier drafts. Carolyn will send him the latest draft.

Trail Surveys—No report.

Conex—Carolyn will try again to contact the upset community member to check with him on our plans.

**New Business**

None

**Other Business**

Trapping Problems in Portage Valley--Alison reported that her dog had been caught recently in a trap in the Portage Valley. Carol confirmed that many recreational traps exist in the valley that could create life-threatening situations for children and pets.

This spring, the Board of Game is hearing a proposal to eliminate trapping in Portage Valley. Written comments are due by March 11. Jonnie will send the comment announcement to all Trails Committee members.

Mining Moratorium—Brian mentioned that the Girdwood Valley mining moratorium (no new claims filed) lapses April 2012. Groups are gathering information and will respond to DNR on a timely basis.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting is February 1, 2011

Girdwood Community Center, 7:00 p.m.