**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

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

**Tuesday, March 2, 2010**

**Call to Order**

Carolyn Brodin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Kate Sandberg took minutes. Others present were Jim Braham, Brian Burnett, Carol Sanner, Deb Essex, Debra Croghan, Jonnie Lazarus, Molly McKinley, Di Hiibner, Matt Wedeking, and Norman Starkey.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as written.

**Approval of Minutes, February 2, 2010**

The minutes were approved with the addition of Norman Starkey to the attendance list and the clarification that Jonnie needs to go with any groomer who gets fuel so that she can pay for the fuel. There is no fuel card.

**Introduction of Guests**

None

**Old Business**

*Trails Issues*

*--Hand Tram Maintenance Schedule*—After discussion, the Committee decided to have one certified inspection each year, monthly inspections in the summer (May-September), and inspections every three months in the winter. Brian has talked to Walt Inis who is willing to certify the tram on his own time, and Di will ask Dave Wilson if this schedule is reasonable. If the Forest Service provides better access to the hand tram in the winter, we will have to inspect it once a month then too. Jonnie will make and keep a maintenance schedule.

--*Winter Grooming*—Jonnie reported that we have already spent our budgeted $500 for fuel. The group agreed that we should now spend the money from the Fungus Fair earnings to continue grooming.

--*Snow Berms*—Carol contacted Nick Danger and Larry Bushnell (DOT) about high, icy snow berms. Both men are now aware of our concerns.

--*Holtan Hills and Iditarod Trail Alignment*—Carolyn said that Dwaine attended the Planning and Zoning (P & Z) meeting on February 3, and that committee decided to have a 25-foot setback on either side of the trail, not the 100-foot setback (200 ft. easement) we requested. P & Z did listen to our concerns and has platted and dedicated this trail.

Matt reported that he and other Chugach State Park managers will meet with Alison Smith, HLB, to discuss their easement for the trail and the Holtan Hills lots in question. The State, at this point, is not willing to diminish their easement.

It was reiterated and agreed by all present how important it is to retain the integrity of the Iditarod corridor and its easements in the valley.

--*Other Trail Issues*

Jonnie mentioned that she is working on resituating the shed and putting in the conex. It is important that we do not have SAGA crews work on this project; they need to work on trails, per our GBOS funding.

Kate as ked if new signs would be good on Alyeska Highway crosswalks that say “Stop for Pedestrians.” It appears that there has been a new signage plan created; therefore, we will wait to see that plan.

Carol will call DOT to tell them the yellow blinking light at Hightower and Alyeska Highway is out.

*Budget and Grants*

Jonnie has the grants calendar and will keep it for us.

*New Trails Map*

No progress this past month. The subcommittee will meet with Carl Matson of USFS this month to get the design set up. Jonnie passed around other examples of maps.

*Memorandum of Understanding*

The drafted five-year USFS Memorandum of Understanding was discussed and fully supported. This will be the second five-year agreement between the GBOS, USFS, and MOA Parks and Recreation. However, the MOA currently is unwilling to enter into agreements for more than one year. Brian and Di will contact Jennifer Johnston, Assembly representative, to see if we can receive a waiver for this.

The following motion was passed unanimously: “That the Girdwood Trails Committee 1) request to be on the GBOS agenda and 2) write a letter to the GBOS in support of a five-year agreement, not one.”

Carolyn will contact GBOS and write the letter.

*Moose Meadow Parking Lot*

Brian and Deb E. reported that they, as representatives of Girdwood Nordic Ski Club, have gone to the Land Use Committee and GBOS to introduce the redesigned parking lot and the support was unanimous. Further modifications will be made to the plans, but the next step is to find funding.

*Updates*

*--Alyeska Highway Bike Path Grant Results*—Isobel Roy contacted Carolyn tosay that we did not receive the funding, but we still have approximately $19,000 left from another grant. Committee members thought of cleaning culverts and fixing bumps and cracks. We will go with GBOS representatives this summer to show them what is needed. Carolyn will call Isobel.

*--Girdwood Area Trails Plan*—no report.

*--Girdwood Nordic Ski Club*—Deb E. reported that the Moose Meadow Parking Lot redesign has taken up their time this past month. They plan to begin clearing trees and stump grinding for the 5K yellow loop this summer. The new trail should be for ready for skiing next winter and, as funding becomes available, completed for summer use.

*--Turnagain Times Article –Next Topic—*Members agreed the article should have a number of announcements and ask for input for SAGA summer work. Kate will write a draft and send it to members.

*--Quilters’ Raffle*—Girdwood Rotary has loaned us their gaming permit free of charge. The raffle will be August 27th at the Fungus Fair Formal, and we will print 500 tickets. Carolyn will call Diana Livingston to discuss monetary issues.

**New Business**

*2010 SAGA Plans*—Members confirmed that we will spend $20,000 as funded on SAGA this year and the crews will stay in Indian where Chugach State Park houses SAGA crews. The rest of the discussion focused on where to emphasize their work, (brushing main trails, working on Beaver Pond Trail, fixing drainage issues on Robbie’s Route), Trail Management Objectives, and asking for more crew leaders. Deb E. volunteered Alpine Air’s time for gravel drops, but not planking.

**Other Business**

Matt announced that the draft Chugach State Park Access Plan is out. Access in our area includes a parking lot near DOT for the Bird to Gird Bike Path, securing the CA Creek and USFS trailheads. Carolyn will write a letter in support of these access points.

Carol announced the US Census is here and emphasized the importance of filling out the forms that will come to our houses. She passed out information.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next Meeting—Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Girdwood Community Center—7:00 pm