**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

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

**Tuesday, May 4, 2010**

**Call to Order**

Carolyn Brodin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Kate Sandberg took minutes. Others present were Debra Croghan, Deb Essex, and Brian Burnett.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as written.

**Approval of Minutes, April 6, 2010**

The minutes were approved as written.

**Introduction of Guests**

None

**Old Business**

*Trails Issues*

--*Hand Tram Maintenance*: Kate passed out the visual check sheet from Dave Wilson. Dave will go in May to hopefully certify the safety of the hand tram. Brian will go oearly this month to check as a visual. Jonnie will purchase the required oil when she returns to Girdwood next week.

Jim Braham checked the tram last month and reminded us that the latch needs replacing. Deb mentioned that Paul Mallory, a local welder, could install it. Kate will talk to Jonnie about replacing the latch. Brian asked that all who visually check the hand tram bring a camera and take necessary pictures to show problems. Email and send the pictures to Jonnie immediately. Signs were discussed, and Kate will find the agreed wording from previous minutes and send to Brian. Two signs are necessary; wording will be in positive action.

--*Alyeska Bike Path Repairs—Visual Check*: Carolyn, or another committee member will go out and identify the worst problems on the path between Crow Creek Road and the bridge. She will contact Isobel Roy also when this is done for her to start the work.

Debra brought up the safety problems with the bike path and road crossings. Children are particularly at risk. After a discussion of the ongoing problems with safety at road crossings, Deb Essex volunteered to get 10 small stop signs for major intersections with the path. The signs will be placed on both sides of the path at Donner, Crow Creek Road, Hightower, Alpine Meadows, and another to be determined.

--*Summer Trail Crews*—Discussed with Nordic Ski Club work.

--*Other Trail Issues*: None

*Budget and Grants*

*--Park Foundation Grant Planning*: Kate reported that she went to the Park Foundation workshop for the grant to improve the Beaver Pond Trail and found it quite helpful. Alison Rein, Kate, and Norman worked on a list of materials needed, and Norman has drawn a rough schematic of the trail and its needs.

Bill Mehner, HLB Director, will waive the $500 fee for a work permit, and Alison Smith, our HLB representative, has offered to carry a 50’ easement process through the mayor and Anchorage Assembly this summer if we pay for a survey for the easement. This easement includes CA Trail to the Beaver Pond/Abe’s turn off, all of Abe’s Trail, and all of Beaver Pond Trail. Alison has talked to Jonnie about this process.

The Committee members in attendance voiced their support in concept for this easement, defined in HLB policies as “a disposal of an interest in land, granted non-competitively for a one-time fee based on the fair market or use value, with approval of the Mayor and Assembly.” This is easement could later be moved by HLB, but would stay as an easement.

The survey may cost more than $10,000. This money could come from what was budgeted for SAGA this year and/or our reserves. There are alternatives to this year’s SAGA (see Nordic Ski Club below). Brian will get bids from Tom Knox (a MOA surveyor), Lantech, and SLANA. He will bring these bids to the next meeting where the issue will be discussed again. Brian will contact Alison Smith too. In the meantime, Kate will submit the grant application with the assumption the Committee will approve spending the money for the survey to get the easement. This will be voted on in June.

*Nordic Ski Club—Access and Trail Work*

Deb Essex reported that many strong Girdwoodians have said that they are ready to work on trails this summer in work crews. Permits are not required for brushing trails, and the Committee agreed that if we pay for a survey for the Beaver Pond Trail etc., we can use these able people to replace SAGA to brush many trails, particularly Abe’s and Beaver Pond this summer. Depending on the survey bids, SAGA may not come at all or come for one or two weeks.

The Committee was in favor of this brushing trails and community work. Kate can add these volunteer hours to her challenge grant application, and these people would become more invested in our trails. This will be readdressed in June.

*SAGA*

Final SAGA schedules and work will be readdressed in June.

*New Trails Map*

Carolyn brought a new draft of the trails map on various types of paper. After discussion, she will go back to Carl and ask him to add the Resort’s trails, take off a few less traveled trails and add the Wagon Trail and Upper Danich Trail as primitive, intermittent routes. She will bring a final draft in June. The paper will be a heavy gauge, non-slick paper.

Printing and distribution of the maps were discussed. After the June 1 meeting, Carolyn will have several hundred printed for businesses with the online version available for printing. The details will be worked out in June.

*Updates*

Due to the late hour, updates were saved for the next meeting.

**New Business**

None

**Other Business**

Brian Burnett has a birthday May 5, and Deb Essex brought a pumpkin, three-layer cake with cream cheese frosting. It was delicious!

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**Next meeting is June 1, 7:00 p.m.**

**Girdwood Community Center**