**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

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

**Tuesday, August 10, 2010**

**Call to Order**

Carolyn Brodin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Kate Sandberg took minutes. Others present were Alison Rein, Jonnie Lazarus, Brian Burnett, Sue Kennedy, Matt Wedeking, Deb Essex, and Norman Starkey.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as written with the addition of a LUC procedural issue in New Business.

**Approval of Minutes, July 6, 2010**

The minutes were approved as written.

**Introduction of Guests**

Carolyn introduced and welcomed Tim Charnon of Girdwood as the new USFS Glacier District Ranger. Karen Zaccaro, GBOS member, later came to the meeting.

**Old Business**

*Trail Issues*

* Hand Tram Maintenance

The tram has serious maintenance issues as reported by Brian. In mid-July several tourists were stuck mid-way, and hotel and fire department personnel had to respond. Hinges are broken and other problems exist.

Most problematic, the towers appear to be out of alignment (the east tower needs shimming), which throws the entire system off balance.

After discussion, members agreed that: 1) Brian, Norman, Jonnie, and Alison will apply for a project grant to the local USFS Resource Advisory Committee. They will ask for funding to have an engineering company design and realign the system and to have a monthly inspection; 2) we hire a monthly inspector now; 3) Jonnie will send out Dave Wilson’s 2010 certification inspection report; 4) we ask for an outside inspector to come in to evaluate the system as well.

Warning signs are not recommended due to liability issues.

Brian will talk to Walt of Alyeska Resort about Snow Engineering. Jonnie will call Dave Hemry and Dave Wilson for input.

* Other Trail Issues

Jonnie will look into specific insurance for trail workers.

Alison was commended for her leadership on the Iditarod work in the upper valley.

*Budget and Grants*

Jonnie passed out a preliminary budget for Trails. The suggestion was made to separate out Trails SAGA from Weeds SAGA to avoid last year’s confusion. She will bring another version next month.

To do any 2011 trail work on Abe’s and CA Creek Trails, Trails must ask for HLB-required survey money of $12,000. Kate will draft a letter to John Rodda and Bill Mehner asking for clarification of why we must have new surveys for Abe’s and CA Creek rather than use Chugach State Park’s 2009 GPS data. Alison and Matt will send Kate their GPS information.

*SAGA Summary*

Norman reported that the SAGA crew brushed a wide swath for the entire Beaver Pond Trail. They also brushed and swept sight corners and areas of the Alyeska Highway Bike Path. Staying at the Forest Fair grounds was successful in that the crew could buy supplies locally.

Norman said that he figured out a way to reroute the trail that would not involve as much work next year and the surveyor recommended a 100-foot easement rather than 50.

The Committee thanked Norman for his consistently wonderful work with SAGA.

*Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)*

Carolyn had asked Kate to pursue the renewal of the MoU with the USFS Glacier District. Kate reported that she emailed Rhonda Westover, municipal lawyer, and talked to Holly Spoth-Torres who is taking over for John Rodda while he is on vacation. Holly told Kate that she would contact Rhonda and get the process going. Kate will continue to work on this. Tim confirmed that the Forest Service wants the title and format to remain as a MoU.

*Fungus Fair Auction*

Jonnie passed out the list of people who have confirmed donating an item. It was decided to request a Trails table at the dinner. Trails members in attendance will work at the auction.

**New Business**

*Procedural Issues Concerning Trails Committee*

Alison reported that she attended the Land Use Committee (LUC) meeting this month and asked that LUC officers ask their new business presenters if they have come to the Trails Committee first with their request. According to GBOS Rules and Procedures, Trails is a subcommittee of GBOS, equal to LUC. The lack of reporting to Trails has been clear over the years, but is currently obvious with the new AAWU water line cutting through the Iditarod Trail. No presentation was made to Trails Committee.

Karen, GBOS member, suggested that LUC be asked to close their agenda two weeks before the meeting and part of the permission to get on their agenda be an automatic question of “Have you presented this to Trails Committee?” If not, they come to Trails first. Carolyn will talk to Jerry Reichlin, LUC Chair.

Karen also reminded Trails members that if they hear of some project that has not been presented to Trails, members should request a hearing from that entity as soon as possible.

**Other Business**

* Karen mentioned that Snow Raven Condos are planning more buildings, and they will need to come to Trails to present their proposal.
* Nordic Ski Club is stockpiling logs from the AAWU water line project at the Resort and plans to use them as corduroy for their trail work.
* Deb Essex asked for a letter of support for a kiosk at Moose Meadow Parking Lot. The Trails Committee had supported this in general, and now she has obtained a National Park Service grant for it. Jonnie made a motion, Brian seconded it: “The Trails Committee will write a letter in support of the kiosk at the Moose Meadow Parking Lot.” Passed unanimously. Kate will write the first draft for Carolyn to sign.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.

**Next Meeting—September 7, 2010---Girdwood Community Center, 7:00 pm**