



Minutes Final
Girdwood Trails Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 6, 2024 7:00PM

Girdwood Trails Committee meetings are taking place on Teams with in-person attendance at the Girdwood Community Room, 250 Egloff Rd.

GTC Voting members are defined as any person eighteen (18) years of age or older who has attended one or more Trails Committee meetings in the last 12 months, and is:

- a) a current resident and/or property owner, business owner or designated representative of a non-profit association; and
- b) who has resided in, owned property in, owned a business located in, or operated as a non-profit association for the preceding ninety (90) days or longer in Girdwood Valley.

Attendance is verified through a sign-in sheet available at each meeting, or equivalent process.

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors, its committees, and subcommittees are subject to the Alaska Open Meetings Act as found in Alaska Statute 44.62.310 and Anchorage Municipal Code 1.25 - Public Meetings.

The Girdwood Trails Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

Call to Order 7PM Barb Crews

Approval August 6 2024 meeting agenda
Approval of May 6 2024 meeting minutes

Brian Burnett/Carolyn Brodin
Brian Burnett/Deb Essex

Announcements & Presentations:

None

Introductions: All new/returning attendees are asked to introduce themselves, members attending via phone anonymously, and members attending jointly via one computer so that attendance is accurate.

None noted

Public Comment (3 minutes each):

Brian Burnett states that inability to successfully promote trail projects effectively on public land has compromised this use in current planning efforts with the Girdwood Comprehensive Plan. He will work harder on these projects in the future.

Old Business:

1. Status and potential action on the Girdwood Comprehensive Plan
Planning and Zoning Commission resolution has been received. As expected, there are 4 items that were recommended to the Commission by P&Z staff that are not in alignment with the community's goals, two of which are specifically impactful to Trails efforts and not in alignment with the adopted Girdwood Trails Plan.

Group discusses how to address this with the Assembly when the Girdwood Comprehensive plan goes forward for review and adoption in September.

Specific talking points from the trails perspective are:

Review of the history and context of the value of the lands that are in misalignment in the plans

Duration of discussion of the Girdwood Trails Management Plan, Girdwood Trails Plan, Forest Loop Trail Discussion and Virgin Creek drainage.

These are all reflected in the Girdwood Comprehensive Plan that was put forward by the community. GTC was on summer break, so GTC has not yet voted to support the GCP as it was presented to the community prior to engaging in municipal process.

Assembly is likely to have this item introduced via consent agenda in September. A Work Session is likely, and then a hearing and vote. No dates are confirmed yet for any of these steps in the process and will be communicated broadly in the community once they are known.

LUC and GBOS will be discussing this at a Joint meeting on MON Aug 12.

It is noted that Barb has travel planned in September and may need to request another member of the GTC executive committee to attend the Assembly meeting.

Girdwood Trails Committee Agendas and minutes are available on line: www.muni.org/gtc

Motion:

GTC moves to support the Girdwood Comprehensive Plan.

Motion by Kalie Harrison/2nd by Brian Burnett

Motion passes by assent vote

Motion:

GTC moves to have Barb Crews speak on behalf of the GTC in support of the Girdwood Comprehensive Plan.

Motion by Brian Burnett/2nd by Carolyn Brodin

Motion passes by assent vote

2. Review of Summer Trail work completed and upcoming
Brushing: Crews have completed brushing on Lower Iditarod, Beaver Pond, and the dike trail from Townsquare to the school.
Repairs/Future Improvements: The trail bridge from Townsquare to Crow Creek Road has been leveled.
Boardwalk repair on the trail behind the school
Start soon on installing the turnpike to resolve mud holes on the Beaver Pond trail
Repair the boardwalk and netting on all trails and install netting on several boardwalk areas without it.
3. Update on Winner Creek Trail Bridge at Glacier Creek
Design continues with our contractors towards a complete design set for this fall and bid the project for construction in 2025.
In September, we will need to discuss a Capital fundraising plan with GTC for the Suspension bridge and Hand tram interpretive center. We'll be looking for volunteers to help organize a plan and pull off fundraising events over the fall/winter/spring to help raise additional funds for this project.
RTP Grant cycle has been announced for 2025. Staff recommends application for grant to work on some aspect of the bridge, possibly the hand tram interpretive center. Staff will request GTC recommendation of GBOS Resolution of Support for this project likely in September.
4. Consider Community Trails Info message for upcoming month to be shared on social media
GTC recommendation is to communicate about Trail Etiquette, perhaps using a graphic such as the one on the new Trails Map draft.
5. Update of Trail maps
Trails subcommittee reviewed the map on Monday. Subcommittee recommended removing Stumpy's Summer Trail and Deb's Way from the map by a narrow margin and small group and requests that GTC as a group consider this recommendation and provide direction. A number of smaller adjustments are also being made to the map. Group is working toward having a version to provide to GTC for approval soon.
Concerns have to do with lack of permission to access across airport land and lack of parking. Dave Hamre offers to work with Deb Essex on gaining permission for airport access. There are new managers at Statewide Aviation and some different approaches about non-aviation use on airport land.

Motion:

GTC moves to keep Stumpy's Summer Trail on the GTC Summer Trail map.

Motion by Kalie Harrison, 2nd Dave Hamre

10 in favor, 1 opposed

Motion carries

Motion:

GTC moves to keep Deb's Way on the GTC Summer Trail map.

Motion by Paul Crews, 2nd by Kalie Harrison

Motion carries by Assent vote

New Business:

6. Harvesting plants (ferns, mushrooms, berries, etc) off of trails on MOA land (Shannon O'Brien/Kalie Harrison)
Shannon will encourage the individual who inquired to pursue with land manager for the specific area of concern.

Other:

7. Ongoing Trails Issues for update:
 - Status of Trails grants: See report
 - Other Trails IssuesShannon O'Brien mentions that snow being dumped into the creek on the extension trail is filling the creek with sand.
Recommend discussing this with Kyle to determine a good direction.
 - Oversize vehicles at Virgin Creek Falls Trail: See report
8. Monthly LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives:
9. Written Reports should be submitted to include in meeting packet
Adjourn 8:25PM