



Minutes Final
Girdwood Trails Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 3, 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

Approval September 3 2024 meeting agenda	Brodin/Crews	Assent
*Amend to add discussion of trails in Virgin Creek area to trails issues		
Approval of August 6 2024 meeting minutes	Crews/Brodin	Assent

Announcements & Presentations:

GBOS has held their 2nd round of work sessions on the 2025 Budget. Parks and Rec budget has a proposed increase of \$15,000, which is intended to cover additional week of trail work crew, among other items. Budget is to be voted on at the September GBOS meeting.

HLBAC approved shift of Tract F (Winner Creek Extension Trail) from HLB to Girdwood Parks and Rec and approved the easements for proposed new Bikewood Trails at their last meeting.

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.

No new, returning or jointly attending members are noted.

Public Comment (3 minutes each): Public Comment must be on subjects not listed on the agenda.

Brice Wilbanks: Thank you Girdwood Parks and Rec for the work on Beaver Pond Trail this summer.

Old Business:

1. Status of the Girdwood Comprehensive Plan
 Comprehensive Plan is expected to be introduced at an Assembly meeting end of October, Work Session with Assembly, staff and Imagine!Girdwood following introduction, and Assembly hearing expected November 6 (note date change due to Voting day). GTC has reviewed the comprehensive plan and has voted their support of the version that was accepted by Girdwood. Briana Sullivan and Brian Burnett are working on a Resolution for GBOS to discuss and pass prior to the November hearing. All meetings are open to the public, however at the Work Session there will likely be no public comment taken. GTC members are encouraged to provide their personal input to the Assembly as a whole via public testimony, written or verbal; Assembly members directly, and administration. GTC voted in August to have Barb Crews speak on behalf of GTC at the Assembly hearing.

2. Review of Summer Trail work completed and upcoming
 As Brice Wilbanks mentioned, summer crew has been working on the Beaver Pond Trail, including completion of the bridge in the early part of the summer, clean-up and removal of work site and materials. They've been working on improving drainage with a turnpike system that requires less gravel finds in one location and will try to complete this in two other low spots before the season ends. Additionally they have brushed Beaver Pond Trail as well as the lower and middle Iditarod National Historic Trails.
 Crew completed pathway and installation of a bench in memory of Edison Pasqual on the new abutment overlooking Glacier Creek.
 Crew will be with us for about another 6 weeks, or when budgeted funding runs out.

3. Update on Winner Creek Trail Bridge at Glacier Creek
Working on completion of 95% engineering documents, mainly developing a punchlist of questions/answers for the bid package, including field work last week to determine location or heli support and material staging.
Today we received \$250,000 from Rasumson Foundation, which will be deposited into MOA bridge account.
Later in the agenda GTC will consider recommendation for RTP grant application to go toward the interpretive center. In the coming months staff will be discussing with GTC kickoff of a capital campaign to generate donations to complete the project.
4. Consider Community Trails Info message for upcoming month to be shared on social media
Great time to visit trails. Be aware of changing train condition and damaging trails that are too wet.
5. Review and consider approval of new Summer Trail map.
Summer Map draft with changes from last month was received by staff this afternoon.
Staff will review and make adjustments, will schedule and post a meeting with the trails mapping subcommittee and will review the draft before the next GTC meeting in October. GTC members with suggestions to the map should attend the mapping meeting. Meeting packet will include the draft map under consideration.
6. Request for GTC Recommendation of GBOS Resolution of Support for an RTP grant in 2025 to work on the Hand Tram interpretive center.
Staff recommends that GTC pursue an RTP grant for 2025 that would be used toward labor to complete the Hand Tram interpretive center. Design is included in design documents, materials mainly are recycled materials from the prior hand tram installation.

Motion:

Girdwood Trails Committee moves to recommend a GBOS Resolution of Support for Recreational Trails Program Grant in 2025 for labor to complete the Hand Tram Interpretive Center for \$200,000 with 10% matching funds from the Service Area.
Motion by Kate Sandberg, 2nd by Patty Hamre
Motion carries by Assent vote

New Business:

7. Change GTC November meeting to Nov 12 to avoid election day (Nov 5) and holiday conflicts.
November meeting dates for GBOS and most committees are requested to shift. If accepted, resulting schedule would be:
GHEC Nov 4 (no change)
GTC Nov 12; LUC Nov 18; PSAC Nov 19; GBOS Nov 25

Other:

8. Ongoing Trails Issues for update:
 - Status of Trails grants: See report. 2024 RTP grant remains pending in SHPO.
 - Other Trails Issues
Trails in Virgin Creek Drainage: change in zoning recommended by P&Z staff to proposed Girdwood Comprehensive Plan makes development of housing in the Virgin Creek drainage. Area could be protected by maintaining, mapping, signing, brushing of existing trails and perhaps development of new trails. Trail development in Virgin Creek area is requested to be added to agenda in the future.

Decision on Enstar request for use of Section Line Easement for gas line has been received and use is approved. This will involve cutting of 20'x1 mile corridor to connect gas line off of Timberline to Ruane.

Transportation impacts on Crow Creek Road based on bridge construction to replace the Hand Tram over Winner Creek: Service Area has been in contact with DOT and DOT maintains the road to Crow Creek Mine. Also service area is discussing with Glacier Valley Transit returning shuttle up to the USFS parking lot on Crow Creek Road, as they did in the past, before the hand tram was decommissioned.

Oversize vehicles at Virgin Creek Falls Trail: Monitoring of use at Virgin Creek Falls has occurred throughout the summer with occasional events that have required response. Recommend removing this item from the agenda as oversized vehicle use seems to be diminished and neighbors of the trail are aware of how to notify staff/WPD regarding this. A parking feasibility study, to determine other possibilities to improve parking at the trailhead, is on a longer term list of projects.

9. Monthly LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives: Brian Burnett plans to attend.
:
10. Written Reports, See meeting packet

Adjourn 7:55PM