



Cooper Landing Trails Committee Meeting

MINUTES

6:00 PM December 12, 2023

Sunrise Inn, Cooper Landing, AK

1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL: D Story, J Cadieux, M Story, JB DeBruhl, Y Galbraith,
3. REVIEW OF MINUTES:
 - a. Last meeting was October 6, 2023
 - b. All present had recently read the minutes and no verbal review was done.
4. TREASURERS REPORT
 - a. We *still* need a Treasurer: This individual needs to track incoming donations and grants as well as expenditures and keep them squared with the CLCC Treasurer's reconning of funds in our committee accounts.
 - i. New officers chosen at CLCC.
 - ii. CLT will meet with CLCC treasurer once the treasurer has familiarized with the books and can speak to CLT details and establish a current baseline.
 - iii. YG: A new \$1000 donation was just received.
5. CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. Inclusive Transportation Webinar Oct. 25th
 - b. Email regarding Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB) Jan 16-18: Information for other grants. Those who've been awarded should attend.
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Review of Letterhead drafts: Chose a style that was simple and could include a line underneath, separating or not, as needed. Logo far left, addresses far right. Center left open for headings or information. May include blue background color as needed. See final chosen renditions attached.
 - b. KMTA Grant for Groomer
 - i. Our Tidd Tech Trail Tenderizer is assembled and on the trails. It has already taken laps around the Crescent area and will head up to Devil's later this week.
 - ii. The parallel "Race" loop was dragged with the new Tidd Tech and it was very nimble
 - iii. Downed trees are removed from the Crescent campground by D and M Story. That also got groomed.
 - c. AK Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant
 - i. Application package was confirmed as received by DNR on 10/31/2023

- ii. Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB) will review it and score it against other applicants on January 17th.
 - 1. It will be very important to have the CLT account with CLCC finalized if we receive this grant.
 - iii. Reminder that it is a reimbursement-style award so we must pay the whole amount ahead and they will pay us back. D Story is looking at a possible short-term loan.
 - iv. We would like to replace our aging snow machine and add to our grooming equipment so that we'll have two groomers (one for Russian Campground [we have this already] and one for Quartz Creek) We have rollers and are obtaining a drag-style groomer (see above KMTA grant) for Devil's Creek
 - d. Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program
 - i. Janette and I met with three representatives of this NPS administered program and will be submitting an application to their program.
 - ii. They provide technical assistance rather than grant money. This is intended to help with the application and administration of any future programs – in particular those that advance the Town Road Pathway Project.
 - iii. We hope to have a written Strategic Action Plan after we next meet with them in April, 2024.
 - iv. They can help us with procedural assistance such as making contacts and reviewing grant applications or facilitating meetings with granting agencies who have reviewed our applications in the past and identify failings.
 - v. David please look up location for obtaining copies of successful grants awarded through RTP, TAP, or FLAP. Y Galbraith willing to help if needed in obtaining copies.
 - e. Safe Streets for All (SS4A)
 - i. We've been assured that CLTRPP will get funding but we don't know to what extent. Full? Less than full? Based on original budget or updated? KPB has put the project out to bid. They will meet with the selected management group initially to familiarize them with the various community priorities. Once the group is selected they will have a year to execute the grant.
 - ii. RTCA may help us with our matching tasks and organization if we are included as anticipated.
 - f. Volunteers Needed
 - i. New members
 - 1. M McC contacted us via email: Doesn't want to groom but can brush.
 - 2. New couple contacted on the trails and M/Y.I. willing to brush.
 - 3. How to gather the volunteers when you need them?
 - a. Takes time to organize via FB
 - b. Text chains or email chains are more immediate

- c. Dates ahead of time work well and can be done more frequently, make them weather dependent
 - d. Forms need to be signed for USFS as most of our work is done on USFS lands.
 - ii. Contacts
 - 1. Must regularly re-contact legislative aides as they rotate through and
 - 2. Re-contact partners on grants, e.g. DNR on CLTRPP.
 - iii. Trail Maintenance
 - 1. Pathway: Winter season has seen no work done but folks can be instructed so that they are ready when the season changes.
 - 2. Ski areas
 - a. In non-winter seasons folks can brush for us if/when they have time. Our tools are available to volunteers for the work.
 - 3. Structure for machines?
 - a. The idea is good but maintenance of structures such as the hybrid tent structure once used at Russian Campground including handling snow loads that caused failure and need for repair. This an ongoing issue for sights distant from where volunteers are located/live.
 - b. A structure for storage of machines may be a future project.
 - iv. Snow Grooming and Equipment Maintenance
 - 1. Thank you to Amy Brodersen for giving the Skandic its seasonal maintenance.
 - 2. Now that we have some snow to comb, I am able to begin scheduling times to review grooming procedures and techniques.
 - g. Website: walkcooperlanding.org
 - i. Need update the site to emphasize CLT and clearly identify Walkable as one of the projects within CLT.
 - ii. Helps make more folks aware of what we have done and are doing
 - h. Treasurer is needed: Decide after we meet with CLCC Treasurer. We may not need additional position or would a CLCC member be willing/able to help us.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Requests from Sandra Holsten
 - i. Plow/sweep equipment for Snug Harbor Pathway and future use.
 - 1. Purchase winter up-keep equipment for DOT?
 - a. DOT hasn't indicated to CLCC or CLT that they want this.
 - 2. Repairs needed for pathway, e.g. erosion: Include in Strategic Plan
 - 3. Write grant? Time is not right at present...
 - a. Who will be operating the equipment?
 - b. There are reasons to pursue this but at this point it needs to be a part of our strategic plan to not compete for same dollars as another grant application from CLT.

- c. May not be the right timing to purchase equipment such as this until the Bypass pathway is ready and a plan of maintenance is established for both the pathways and the equipment.
 - d. Snug Harbor pathway is the CLCC's responsibility to maintain so the equipment would have to be owned by CLCC.
 - e. Include in strategic planning to establish the priority for this equipment and identify all equipment that is needed.
 - f. CLCC and CLES may cooperate on pathway maintenance along Snug Harbor. Cooperation on a grant app may be possible with CLES. Other sources may mean not competing for the same ones as other CLT projects.
- ii. Governor's State-wide representative, State Troopers rep for KPB, and DOT Representative for KPB all scheduled to be in CL at the January 18th CLCC meeting.
 - 1. The STIP regarding Bypass and Existing Sterling Hwy status are priorities
 - 2. Perhaps not the right time to mention equipment for trail maintenance
- iii. Separate account for CLT under CLCC.
 - 1. Request made to be able to donate to particular activities within CLT like winter care for the Snug Harbor pathway.
 - 2. This has already been discussed with past CLCC officers and will be brought up in meeting with new Treasurer to determine capacity to do this.
 - 3. Donations have already come in that are for winter ski grooming
- iv. Develop signage on existing trails and infrastructure... S Holsten/K Route
 - 1. Highlight CLT/Walkable efforts and
 - 2. Provide inviting, meditative or meaningful messages.
 - 3. Need to follow through with elements identified in past plans such as the 2017 Pathway and Trail Integration Plan so that there is not a hodge-podge of signage. A consistent appearance, material, etc. is imperative.
 - 4. Write grant? Not at this time...
 - a. Include in strategic planning first. Anticipate April, 2024
 - 5. Other signage needed:
 - a. Quartz Creek powerline winter trailhead could provide information but has to be agreed to by State of AK since it is in the State-owned powerline corridor. Dog waste is a burden if e.g. bags are provided then a collection point must be provided. Who collects and deals with the waste?
 - b. All signage is subject to vandalism so needs to be durable
 - c. Identifying Walkable Community Project on the Kenai River bridge pathway has been considered in the past and action was not followed through. It remains of value as

would public education about other benefits brought to the community by CLT/Walkable Project.

8. INFORMATION and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. K Lessard suggested CLCC seek additional lands around the Gun Club and develop a dog park/trail system for dogs and their partners. J Harpe is interested in the concept as well.
- b. Dry Creek Ski Race:
 - i. Has been sponsored informally by ARC in the past and remains so
 - ii. March 16th or 17th, 2024
 - iii. Can CLT solicit donations at that event? Possibly

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/TASKS

- a. DS: Obtain contacts/addresses for getting copies of past successful RTP, TAP, or FLAP grants for our review. Let YG know where she can help to pick them up.
- b. DS: Contact State Parks/DNR regarding Town Road Project and continued involvement
- c. DS: Contact legislative aides to remind them of our project and past support
- d. DS: Set dates with others for next trail efforts and publish them
- e. DS/MS: Work on FB page for CLT. Limit postings to those approved by administrator? Work on volunteer page both for soliciting them and organizing them when a project is identified?

10. SELECT NEW MEETING DATE: Week of Feb 5th. Exact date/location TBD.

11. ADJOURNMENT: 7:50 p.m.