

ALASKA TRAILS

Alaska Trails Board Meeting Teleconference Minutes Alaska Trails Board Meeting Jan 15, 2008

1. **Call to Order: 12:11 PM**

- a. Attendance: Wayne Biessel, Jack Campbell, Blain Anderson, Jack Mosby, Ken Pendleton
- b. Proxy: Geoff Orth Proxy(Jack M.),
- c. Staff: Jillian Morrissey, Director
- d. Members: Paul Sandhofer, Lisa Holzapfel
- e. Not in Attendance: Bob Gorman, Dan Chagnon, Karl Kassel, Kenton Bloom.

2. **Changes to the Agenda** New Business: Add Videotaping Alaska Forum for the Environment presentation. Bleikert Training for Jillian. Anchorage Park Foundation Opportunity - Home Depot Grants, and Building a trail from the Anc. Senior Center to Chester Cr.

3. **Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approval of the December 2008 Monthly meeting minutes –
- b. Approval of the December Treasurer Report –
- c. Approval of the Consent Agenda: Ken Moved, Blain seconded, Approved.

4. **Board Action Items**

- a. Add Jillian to checking account. – Done.

5. **New Business**

- a. ARTC is hosting the Alaska Forum for the Environment. Videotaping would run \$2500 – 3000. We need additional sponsors, etc to support this cost. Would be available to other agencies. Jillian has contacted Fairbanks and there is a possibility that we can get some assistance. Lisa and Jillian to handle.
- b. Bleikert Training for Jillian – Training will run \$450. Focus will be on ATV trail issues. Dates are Feb. 5, 6, & 7. Decision referred to the Exec. Committee.
- c. Anchorage Park Foundation-Home Depot Grant - We have a \$2700 grant from Home Depot grant that is dependent on doing the work at University Lake. We could use this money as a match for a Home Depot grant that will be coming up the end of January. Blain moved, Geoff seconded, to pursue the grant. Approved.
- d. Trail from the Anchorage Senior Center to Chester Creek - ??

6. **Executive Director's Report: (NEW)**

Attached to the Minutes. AMT reimbursement to be handled by Jillian after review by the Exec. Committee. Blain moved to support Jillian in pursuing a grant for the Middle Fork Trail. Geoff seconded. Approved.

7. **Board Discussion Items:**

- a. Executive Director:
 - i. Office space – We have a conference room available for meetings and teleconferences. Contact Jillian for access. Parking after hours is available in the lot. During office hours parking is on street. Future Board Meetings could be held there. Jillian is accepting donations of plants and art for the office.
- b. Training coming up – We need instructors. The Environthon is coming up in Fairbanks. The Forum for the Environment will be in Anchorage. We will have a booth there.

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Envirothon – FBX, April 26 at Chena Hot Springs. ARPA training in Petersburg at the end of April.

8. Trail News:

- a. Winter Trails Day Update: Jack M. – We had about 120 – 150 people at Hatcher Pass. Was covered by ADN and the Frontiersman papers. Another day will be held next Saturday at Reflection Lake off the the Glenn Hwy at Knik River. REI supplied the equipment.
- b.** Paul S. – The Senior Center has been trying to promote a trail from the Center to Chester Creek. The distance is about 500 feet. Paul will meet with the Facilities committee in about two weeks to consider. No ownership issues.
- c.** We now have trailers for the tool cache, but no tools. One of the trailers is going to Fairbanks. Blain is looking into some graphics for the trailers.

9. **Next Meeting** February 12, 2008 at 12:00 PM.

10. **Adjournment:** Jack C. moved, Jack M. seconded Approved. 1:05 PM

11. Action Items:

- a. Lisa and Jillian to handle the Alaska Forum For the Environment.
- b. Jillian to reimburse Mike Shields for work on the AMT.
- c. Instructors are needed for the trail training sessions coming up.
- d. Paul S. will meet with the Facilities Committee to consider the Chester Creek Trail.
- e. Blain is looking into graphics for the trailers.

Prepared By:

Jack Campbell
Secretary

ATTACHMENT – Executive Directors Update 15 January 2000

Executive Director Update

11 January 2008

Existing Projects

Advanced Modules

- ❑ Extension request for grant approved – new deadline is December 2008
- ❑ First Advanced Module training of 2008 @ UAA was a success– Big thanks to Blain, Kevin Meyer & Mike Shields
- ❑ January 15th deadline of draft for peer review approaches
- ❑ Training Schedule to be posted by mid-February
- ❑ I have become responsible for development of 4 modules

IKGRT

- ❑ Last conference call there was a decision to begin the spring community meetings in mid-April in Eagle ending in Seattle in early May
- ❑ New round of bi-monthly teleconferences underway this month
- ❑ There will be a IKGRT 'Quick Link' button on the AT website this month. This will allow the community liaisons to have access to important documents and advertise the spring community tour specifics

Great Land Trust – Sanctuary Project

- ❑ I submitted a request for a Woodrow Wilson Fellow to intern @ Alaska Trails for the summer. This Fellow would be responsible for the daily participation of volunteer management, technical assistance, and on-the-ground labor at the Sanctuary. This is not a guaranteed thing. The Fellow chooses their positions, we are 1 of 60 organizations who submitted a request, and there are only 40 Fellows. If a Fellow chooses Alaska Trails, I will work closely with this natural resources intern to ensure a meaningful experience for them and also that we receive the benefits of getting additional work done and new ideas.
- ❑ Still no finalized contract – I will make a plan with the ED to get this wrapped up & begin a timeline

BLM – OHV

- ❑ Narrowing down the videographer & production team for the Todd Palin PSA - **will make a decision next week!**
- ❑ The goal is to prioritize a professional process and production while remaining sensitive to our non-profit budget needs
- ❑ Many partners are on board including NPS, BLM, Dept. of Health & Human Services and possibly other state entities

Eska

- ❑ On hold until Spring

Haines

- ❑ Jack did a lot of leg-work for this. He submitted a cover letter, contract proposal, and drawings to Chilkoot Indian Association.
- ❑ Due to snow, the survey & design work has been postponed until breakup (probably May)

General Operations

- ❑ **A huge THANK YOU!**
to all Board Members and supporters for my wonderful gift this holiday!
- ❑ Office phone transfer – Alaska Trails no longer has a stand alone voicemail! The number (907) 334-8049 rings in the office. Voicemail checked daily.
- ❑ I am accepting donations of technology, art and plants for the office

On the horizon...

Executive Director Update

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Membership Drive

- ❑ Will begin in February/March

Singletrack Advocates– Hilltop

- ❑ Janice Hightower has submitted a Challenge Cost Share Grant to NPS – Alaska Trails wrote a letter of support. If awarded, the grant will cover costs for me to do training, education, and supervision of the finish work (at \$75 / hour). The time commitment is estimated between 10-14 hours a week for 3-4 weeks

Gustavus – The Nature Conservancy

- ❑ Interest in hiring AT for survey & design for a 3-4 mile trail in a 400-acre sanctuary – contract is dependent on grant funding
- ❑ Work would not begin until September

BP Energy Center Singletrack Presentation

A 'Heads Up'!

Sage Cohen or Singletrack Advocates (STA) is signing up for an evening presentation room to show a mountain bike trip. The show will help raise donations for the Hillside Singletrack Trail project.

Since STA is a partner with AK Trails on grant funding, Alaska Trails will be a key sponsor of the event. This allows STA to get the free space rental. I will keep folks notified of the date and time of the venue.

Chugach State Park – Middle Fork Trail

Summary:

Genesis of the idea came from James King. When Geoff, Jack and I met with him last month, he encouraged Alaska Trails to do help develop, fund and execute a high-profile project in the Anchorage Bowl the summer of '08. I spoke with Tom Harrison, Chugach SP Superintendent, and he and Matt Wedeking, District Ranger, agree that the Middle Fork Trail in the Hillside Trail system, would be the best option. The Middle Fork has had a trail assessment done, thanks to Blain and other NPS folks. It is accessible and well-used and a trail improvement project could get Alaska Trails excellent exposure.

Chugach is willing to support the project with a letter of support, a 5-person trail crew and other infrastructure resources, as needed. My thinking, with support of the Board, is to organize and manage the project. I would open it to the AT membership & general public. We could run our basic curriculum, again (perhaps introduce more instructors to the instructor pool).

The other option is to look into Volunteer Vacations (VV). We can set up a 'spike camp' near the work site and run it as a 7-day volunteer experience. Or a combination of both members/general public & VV.

I started the process of digging around for funding. One very good potential is the Conservation Alliance. It is necessary to have a Conservation Alliance member nominate a group for funding to be able to submit a proposal. **Kennan Ward, photographer and Conservation Alliance member, nominated Alaska Trails for the next round of funding.** So, I can begin that grant proposal process. There are also 2 other more 'local' sources of funding the Rasmuson Foundation and Alaska Conservation Foundation. Building relationships with these 3 funders are very important. Allow me to elaborate.

If Alaska Trails can get a (\$15-30K) grant from any of these 3 funding sources, run the funded project successfully and report well, we continue to build our rapport as a 'fundable' organization. With ACF and Rasmuson, 3 successful smaller grants will position us for larger, more organizational operation funding. That could be a very good thing.

Using a project like this one, would start that process of becoming a viable and successful organization in the eyes of the big funders. My question to the Board is, do you feel this is a worthwhile project to continue to pursue (and use my time)?

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Professional Trail Builders Conference

March 9-14, 2008

Does the Board think it is important or is there funding, to attend conferences like this one?