

# Trails Working Group

## Meeting Notes

12-5-03

Attending: Paul Swanson, Kim Kiefer, Larry Johansen, Bob Grochow, Paul Zahaski, Kathy Munoz, Bob Janes, Gary Mendivil, Sandy Warner, James King

### 1. Approved Agenda

Kathy gave a history of the committee stating that this was one of the most successful tourism planning processes that the Assembly had been involved in. Larry suggested that we share the model with Ketchikan and other communities. Kathy mentioned the importance of the well defined mission and placing it on the agenda where it could be seen each week and by the group and the public.

### 2. The group reviewed the commercial use recommendations made in 2001.

- Earnest Gruening State Historical Site – Recommendation that large busses can not cross the bridge on Amalga Road because of weight restrictions. Kim will check into the max weight.
- Herbert Glacier Trail – Waiting for review from the Forest Service.
- Sunshine Cove Beach Access – The new trail recommended in the 2001 plan has been completed. Recommendation for group to look at spacing, group size, etc.
- Amalga Meadows Beach Access – Recommended discussion on if there is a demand for a loop trail for commercial use and how new trails in the area might affect existing recommendation.
- West Glacier Trail – Needs bigger and better parking to accommodate rafting and other users. Needs trail maintenance and improvements. Fee demo money could be spent on this trail. Forest Service update needed.
- Auke Lake Parking Area – Leave on list but note that it is mostly local use.
- DOT ROW on Montana Creek – Forest Service update needed.
- Moraine Ecology/Fish View Trail – Forest Service update needed.
- Photo Point Trail – Discussion needed on how to control use in the area particularly on the flats. Suggestion to make official trail to the waterfall. Wait for update from the Forest Service.
- Nugget Creek Trail – Forest Service update needed.
- East Glacier Trail – Forest Service update needed.
- Trail of Time Nature Loop – Forest Service update needed.
- DZ School Trail – Discussion needed on if a demand for commercial use exists.
- Granite Creek – Recommendations of previous plan have been met and the trail can be removed from the list of trails recommended for commercial use.
- Perseverance Trail – Gastineau Guiding has been using the Glory Hole and Red Mill trails. Discussion needed for commercial use on Red Mill, Glory Hole and the Mine Access Trail. Review of existing commercial use also needed. Concern of condition of first part of trail. Recommendation made to do historical review and focus on improvements to the first part of the trail.

- Mt. Roberts Trail – Updated plan for trail improvements coming. Commercial use is working up there for now. The Star Hill access is poor for many users. A new trailhead should be made official starting in the basin. Discuss should lower part of trail be used commercially if a new trailhead is created?
- Treadwell Mine Historic Trail – Hasn't been used commercially in the last couple of years. Operators would like to keep it open for commercial use they just haven't had time to get something new going.
- Eaglecrest Trails – Eaglecrest has been working on a plan to develop more and better trails including ones for commercial use. Phase one is to harden the lower Nordic loop for wheeled dog sled tours and to create a Forest Walkway somewhere near the lodge. Phase two would be to improve trails on the ridge and a trail to the top for mountain. Eaglecrest is currently pressing forward with plans and looking for funding to develop trails. They would like to be first on agenda for planning purposes. Lower loop trail could be assessable and have a rental cabin as well as provide access to Treadwell Ditch Trail. The newly paved road has improved access to the area especially for busses. There are also plans for a new lift at Eaglecrest that can accommodate foot traffic. Development at Eaglecrest better justifies DOT funding for the Treadwell Ditch.

Bob Janes – would like to look at other options for commercial use trails. Especially at Eaglecrest because of the momentum already started at. He doesn't want to spread our efforts to thin. He has an interest in more trails for commercial use because the existing trails designated for commercial use are at or near capacity.

Kathy – Suggested that we make recommendations for funding back to Assembly.

Alice - Health is important. We should encourage people to walk up and ride tram down. Secretary of Health is interested in getting more people on trails. Potential funding source.

- Outer Point Trail – Discuss which one will be commercial free. Put early on agenda.
  - Rainforest Trail – Discuss which one will be commercial free. Put early on agenda. Would be nice to get some numbers on use. Discuss mixing of use. Probably not what the public would like. More people using new trail. Request to switch back to old trail because the demand or sales for Rainforest walk has gone down in last two years. As well as ratings from clients have been going down. Guides are not having the same success giving as good of tours. Bob offered to power wash old planks. Would like to discuss this but does not want to open up a huge can of worms if it comes to that. Kirby Day is looking at the area as one system, both trails. Potential wheelchair trail. This would probably not be a problem with the tours. Not a demand from the industry to change the planking to gravel. Find out from the guides what is valuable on old trail. Think about turning the whole thing into a system. That is how it is being used by the public. More interpretive opportunity on the old trail. Larry would prefer that. Bob would be happy with whatever happens.
3. Other issues or trails –
- Kax and Dimond Park Bridge – Discuss potential for commercial use.

- There is a demand for Commercial bird watching areas. Some want guided some want unguided. Discuss areas for birding. Bring in someone from the Audubon Society to tell us where is good. Police Station, DZ, others
- Fritz Cove Road – new parking has created a demand for bike touring. Discussion needed.
- Hut to hut system – Discussion needed. Eaglecrest
- University Trails – Discussion needed.
- Southern Green Zone, Boy Scout Trail, Amalga, State Park – Discussion needed.
- Forest Service update on all their trails next meeting.
- Will not discuss OHV use.
- Alice and Sandy – Agreed to be new co chairs with unanimous consent from group.
- Larry was nominated to represent commercial users – He agreed with unanimous consent from group.
- Paul Z. will be the new representative for State Parks.
- Consideration of a Mountain bike representative by Gary Mendivil, proposed that we ask them when relevant issues were discussed.
- Sandy will talk with Elva about taking minutes.
- Kim will check with Kathy about new assembly representative.
- James will put together agenda for meetings starting with FS overview, Eaglecrest, Outer Point, etc.

Next meeting is Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> at noon in 224 city hall.