

Eaglecrest Trails Advisory/ Nordic Advisory Committees Joint Meeting
July 15, 2020 at 5:30 via Zoom

Present were Dave Scanlan and Erin Lupro, Board members Stephanie Hoag, Megan Gregory Kevin Krein, Jon Dale, Shawn Eisely, and Dave Hanna. Juneau Nordic Ski Club Members Wayne Carnes, Scott Fischer, Betsy Fischer, Jim Powell, Odin Brudie, Frankie Pillifant, Nancy Jones, , Joel Nudelman, Dave Hanna, Ray Imel. The meeting began with introductions.

1. Update on current and planned summer work.

Dave S. gave a presentation on Mountain bike trail work, hiking trails at Dick's Lake and Pitman's Ridge, and a Hooter to Cropley traverse trail. Shawn asked about work on alpine trails by summer crews, and Dave described work in Porcupine area.

2. Trail Hardening on the Lower Loop was discusses. The former permit from 2005-2013 for work on Lower Loop covered only a small portion of the area we are interested in improving. The Corps of Engineers suggests that we apply for a new permit, which we could reasonably acquire by early September for work to be accomplished by Mid November. Specific areas to be hardened were discusses, and with the "Nordic Beach" lesson area and the meadow loop being first priorities. Other than minor modifications, work on existing hardened section (ie adding anything considered to be "fill") would not be possible until new permit is obtained.

Odin had questions about the planned Hooter to Cropley trail improvements and the possibility of a classic track for mixed use. That would probably not work presently but Cropley Lake trails may be part of future summer development.

Expertise from JNSC for help with permits was requested by Dave S. Wayne offered to walk along and pinpoint culvert locations over the weekend. Betsy also offered to do a walk-along as well.

3. Nordic Signs.

Erin has worked on signs in collaboration with Betsy and Alaska Litho; these were shown and discussed. They are hoping to get an i-phone that can scan Nordic tickets. Dave S. also has trail maps to post. Ray asked about a sign for the Dog Loop, which has not been clear in the past. Megan suggested some outline of the sign wording in black. Odin suggested adding "Nordic Trail" to No Dogs/No Foot Traffic. Wayne brought up the point that the signs are only relevant in the winter, and Erin suggested that we take them down during the summer to save them from sun fading, similar to snow sports school signs. Scott asked about winter bike policy on Lower Loop and Dave suggested that there will be a "no bikes" policy. That was supported by Nordic Community. Fred would like "No Bikes" added to Dog/foot signs.

4. Summer revenue plans

Dave presented current status of summer revenue plans, including a used quad/gondola lift to a summit lodge near Heavenly Valley with mid a station, and new alpine trails for beginner/intermediate alpine users. A possible plan for 2.7 miles of Nordic Loops with mid station access was shown.

Questions and discussion points included:

- The continued existence of the Ptarmigan Lift (yes)
- There is a potential of strong support from the Nordic community for trails.
- Cabin and possible tent platforms still desired for Cropley
- Attention to current Upper Loop. (would be included with future permitting/integrated into plans)

Dave presented a larger cabin and trail vision with pedestrian suspension bridges, opportunities for ridge runners, mountain bikers, and cabin access as well as for summer tourist revenue. An island-wide trail system that connect to the back side of Douglas Island, and to other nearby mountains including Ben Stewart, Meek, and others. Reception was positive, with the mention of some potential user conflicts with hunters and others who currently use the area. Dave's goal would be to accommodate multiple uses of trails including bicycles. Some trails would be for pedestrians only. There is widespread support for cabins, to include some small, high-alpine type shelters and also tent platforms. The need to attract some cruise ship tourists for summer revenue was discussed, as was the advantage of the current plan in terms of its low staffing needs.

Dave presented additional information focused on a summit lodge and sky bridges.

Additional topics briefly discussed were

- Power outlets for RVs
- EV chargers
- An electric snowmachine for Nordic grooming.
- Prohibition on purchasing equipment with trails funding: it can go for equipment rentals, labor. Culverts would come from CIP designated Nordic funds.