

UAF North Campus Subcommittee Agenda September 9, 2015; 12 p.m. (noon) Facilities Services Conference Room, RM 122	No agenda available
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UAF North Campus Subcommittee Meeting

September 9, 2015

Notes

In attendance: Mark Oldmixon, Kara Axx (Ex-off), Ken Tape, Martin Klein, Dan Callahan, Nick Crawford, Jason Garron (Ex-off)

Absent: David Fee Alan Tonne

Guests: none

Minutes approved from August

Mangers Report

DOT working on transitions from trails to bike path. The flooded trail is awaiting to lower water or they may pump up. When site is released, FS will patch work as needed and install new barriers between path and NC.

Alumni Association supported development of the Himalaya trail.

Public Comment: None

New Business:

UAF Trails Club is an official UAF Student Org. They annually produce a list of priorities to improve the trails. They are frustrated to not make the agenda on a regular basis. Mark offered to put the top 3 items on the agenda and have action finalized.

1. Ballaine Lake walking trail.

Trails club proposes new walking trail from Ballaine Lake parking lot that leaves from the same trailhead as skiers. Trails club claims that the existing walking trail (that leaves from a different location) doesn't get used enough. Due to the non-obvious start of the walking trail, many people end up walking on the ski trail as they head to the range road. Dan and Kara, believes additional signage for the existing walking trail, year-round, would educate the users. At this time NCS doesn't want to cut a new trail. Jason will do additional signage and make the existing trail "official." We will give a year and review.

"NCS moves to make the existing walking trail official and install permanent signage year-round for the period of one year and then review." Motion by Mark and seconded by Dan. Passed unanimously (5-0).

2. Grooming the arboretum

UAF Trails club requests that the arboretum to be groomed year-round with tracks (except on steep hills).

- The plan for 1960's calls for the area to be "unmaintained."
- 2 years ago NCS approved the area to be groomed for the Trails Club "Ski-a-thon" event. The tracks would then be "killed" after the event. Jason rolls the trails as a low-priority item in order to have the area ready for tracks in March. This motion has been executed for two winters/races.
- Kara has received feedback that the tracks are liked.
- The trail is designated as "unmaintained trail," the use is not designated or restricted. It is not advertised as a bike trail, but technically not restricted.
- Martin is concerned about the change in culture if we go further and groom it regularly.
- Trails club believes if people want ungroomed trails they can go anywhere in Alaska, Birch and UAF are the only manicured trails.

Jason doesn't believe students have that opportunity as easily accessible.

- Trail designation needs to be identified.
- Nick is supportive of grooming or at least packing. Jason wants to reduce regulation in that area. The area is used by a wide variety of users, not just skiers.
- Kara, Jason, and Dan are concerned with the ripple effect of grooming the trails. Will it lead to skate lanes and then separated walking trails. Jason would need cut 20 trees if grooming was going to be regular.
- Nick argues that they are maintained, despite what is dragged. Nick believes if we are already running the snow machines in the area, might as well drag it.
- Dan says the online comments are not requesting it, don't change. Dan supports the existing policy.
- Jason is concerned about additional man power required to maintain the additional mileage.
- Nick still concerned about the "packed maintained." Nick wants all or nothing.
- Martin concerned setting a track will add conflicts.
- Conversation turned towards perhaps the ski-a-thon should not be out there in the first place. Martin doesn't see the historical value of running the ski-a-thon through there.

NCS moves that the area stays unmaintained and will only be packed to prepare for the ski-a-thon as resources allow. Motion by Dan, Seconded by Ken. Passed unanimously (5-0).

Time running short: we briefly discussed making a skate lane to Smith Lake. Should Big Whizzy be two-way traffic in that area or possibly the whole trail?