

Trails Working Group
January 28, 2004 12:05- 2:00
Downtown Public Library

In Attendance: Merrill Sanford, Bob Grochow, Gary Mendivil, Kim Kiefer, Larry Johansen, Paul Zahasky, James King, Sandy Warner

Minutes for January 14, 2004 approved

Consensus was reached on the following recommendations:

- **DZ Trail System** – The trail is currently being designed and constructed to accommodate school, neighborhood and commercial use. The Trails Working Group will make further recommendations once the system is complete with loop trails.
- **Signs** – Signs should be placed at every trail that is permitted for commercial use so that the public knows what to expect and operators know a permit is required.
- **Granite Creek** – Closed to commercial use.
- **Kax and Dimond Park Bridge** – Leave as is with no commercial use allowed.
- **Fritz Cove Road Parking Area** – Parking area should remain closed to commercial use including staging for bike tours.
- **Treadwell Mine Historic Area** – Keep area open to commercial use but change the weekend recommendation from closed Saturday and open Sunday to open one weekend day to be determined during permitting.

Notes:

DZ Trail System:

This trail potentially could be interesting for commercial use due to the diversity of natural features. There was some concern about how to coexist with the school and neighborhoods. The trail is currently being designed and constructed to accommodate school, neighborhood and commercial use. The Trails Working Group will make further recommendations once the system is complete with loop trails.

Signs:

A suggestion was made to put up better signs at each trail that is used commercially to better inform the public and let operators know that a permit is required.

Granite Creek:

Everyone agreed that this trail is now officially closed to commercial use now that the Perseverance Trail has been repaired to the end.

Kax and Dimond Park Bridge:

Two years ago a request to take commercial bike tours from Brotherhood Bridge along the trail to the Dimond Park Bridge was received. This trail is very heavily used and already has conflicts between user groups. There has been quite a bit of public comment against using this trail for commercial use. The existing trail is not wide enough to accommodate existing use and

the new high school construction would cause conflicts for commercial users. A general consensus was reached that this trail is not a good place for commercial use. It was noted that buses were stopping in the parking area for photos of the Glacier and many of the visitors were wandering up the trail. Larry will ask that operators stop allowing this to happen as part of the Best management Practices.

Fritz Cove Road Parking Area:

Commercial bike tours have been using the parking lot as a staging area. Parks and Rec. has received a lot of complaints from the neighborhood about the commercial use. The property was given to the city to accommodate noncommercial use of the beach. The parking area is not designed for vans with trailers. People were going to the bathroom in the woods and in peoples yards before leaving on the tour. This is not a good place for a port a potty or trash cans because is will be an eyesore for the neighborhood and is a long distance away from existing maintenance routes. The Fritz Cove Road seems to be an unsafe place for this type of biking due to the narrow shoulders. There was consensus that the parking area should remain closed to commercial use.

Treadwell Mine Historic Trail:

This trail has been permitted but not used for commercial use in the last couple of years. The commercial operators would like to keep it as an option for commercial tours. It was noted that parking is not as big a problem in the area with the expansion of harbor parking. The existing recommendation was to allow commercial use Monday through Saturday and closed on Sunday. The group agreed to change that recommendation to Monday through Saturday and one weekend day to be determined by demand during permitting. The determination would be made at the beginning of the season and would be the same all through the season.

Bird Viewing Areas:

The next meeting will focus on exploring the idea of creating commercial bird viewing areas or trails. Initial thoughts included DZ, Sheep Creek, Perseverance, Fish Creek, Mt. Roberts, Salmon Creek Flats, and Gold Creek Flats.

Next meeting: Wednesday February 25, 2004 at 12:05 PM in the Downtown Library.

Meeting Notes by James King