Municipality of Anchorage

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Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Jerry Fox & Mike Edgington, Co-Chairs
Eryn Boone, James Glover, Jr., Briana Sullivan

September 15, 2020
GBOS Non-Profit Recreation Grant Presentations Work Session
Minutes Final
7:00 p.m. Teleconference Meeting

Due to the current spread COVID-19 virus GBOS meetings are going to be held virtually and telephonic indefinitely and are to be limited to critical issues only.

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors, its committees, and subcommittees are subject to the Alaska Open Meetings Act as found in Alaska Statute 44.62.310 and Anchorage Municipal Code1.25 - Public Meetings.

Call to Order 7:00 p.m. Mike Edgington Co-Chair
Roll Call: Attending are Jerry Fox, Mike Edgington, Eryn Boone, Briana Sullivan
Disclosures: Mike Edgington is a volunteer with FVCS; Briana Sullivan also is a volunteer and past board member of FVCS. GBOS members agree that neither is a substantive conflict.

Agenda Revisions and Approval
September 15, 2020 GBOS Non-Profit Recreation Grant Work session agenda approved JF/BS 4-0 roll call

Announcements:
- MOA GBOS Quarterly meeting is scheduled for MON Oct 26 2020 at 4PM via teleconference. Connection information TBA.

Agenda
1. Review of grant process

$25,000 is hard-funded for Four Valleys Community School; $35,000 is to be divided among the rest of the grantees
History of past requests and awards is provided
Instructions on evaluation of the grants, grant applications, and evaluation worksheet has been emailed to GBOS members. GBOS members are to allocate awards to meet the funding available. At the next GBOS meeting Sept 21, GBOS will discuss and finalize their individual recommended awards and funding amounts will be averaged.

2. Presentations by 2021 grant applicants: See meeting packet for presentations

Challenge Alaska: Nate Boltz updates that in 2019/2020 season Challenge Alaska had 3 Girdwood-based athletes and 40 Girdwood-based volunteers. 9 local group rentals of the Keil Center (Challenge Building) with a total of $9,000 in discounts, including the Girdwood Fine Arts Camp. Dorm remodel will allow for overnight use of the building, pending fire marshal inspection. COVID-19 caused shortened ski season, however most summer outdoor programs were able to go forward. Challenge did cancel their Summer Splash and book club programs due to COVID-19.

Girdwood Art Institute: Mariyam Medovaya updates that Art Camp has now run for 34 years without interruption for their summer 2-week program. In 2019-20 they also added a winter intensive at the Girdwood School. COVID-19 required 50% capacity to be held safely, so 33 kids participated in Art Camp this summer, enrollment on first-come, first-served basis. GBOS grant pays for sibling scholarships and helps to pay for art apprentices/instructors. Art Camp seeks more funding from GBOS in 2020 as there is a shortfall based on lower tuition income due to COVID. Girdwood Art Institute is planning for Winter Intensives again in 2020-21, at the Girdwood School if possible but will seek other locations as needed.

Girdwood Community Club: Lewis Leonard will supply text to be included in the meeting packet. KEUL provides 24-7-365 service to the listening area as well as emergency broadcasts. KEUL is volunteer based and supported largely by direct donations/memberships, support through pick, click, give, etc. In-kind support is in excess of $100,000 per year. At the onset of COVID-19, KEUL initiated broadcast of interviews and updates from city and state, which are ongoing. New antenna at the upper tram terminal is still to be installed, this antenna will not change the signal or public use but will allow more room for additional antenna to be installed, better access to equipment, etc. Installation is by cell providers with Alyeska Resort as the host location.

Glacier Valley Transit: Derek Brewer updates that GVT has worked hard and provided excellent service to riders in Girdwood. This is the 4th year of fare-free model, and the model is working. Half of ridership is Girdwood residents. GVT receives transportation grant funds from the MOA @ $20,000/year, Federal funding, GBOS funding, and sponsorships/donations. GVT continues to run consistently with some modifications to passenger capacity as mandated during COVID-19. Other factors related to COVID-19 are: Crow Creek Mine service was limited to weekends only; no Forest Fair, which in 2019 provided $3300 in donations); no sponsorships are anticipated in 2020 season as local businesses are also impacted by COVID-19.
2018/19 GVT served 94,000 riders
2019/20 there have been 73,000 riders
GVT has received CARES Act Funding through the Federal Transit Authority. These funds can be used for operating costs, based on a reimbursement process. There is uncertainty about reimbursements, GBOS and other funding is critical in the equation.

Little Bears Playhouse: Camille Jones updates that Little Bears continues to provide quality child care and pre-school education to Girdwood kids. Facility is small and there has been a wait list consistently since 2011. GBOS is aware of effort to build new facility. Donations and fundraising go toward new facility purchases and maintenance of existing facility. Currently Little Bears serves 20 kids per day/40 families per year. Little Bears was closed from March – June, need is strong to provide child care for families of essential workers. Little Bears sought Payroll Protection Plan loan funds to cover employee payroll, and is now working through steps to receive forgive that loan. No fundraisers in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Four Valleys Community School: Catherine McDermott updates that FVCS has operated in Girdwood for 40 years. Anchorage School District closed facilities in March, 2020 and they have not reopened yet for rental. FVCS began working on no-contact, no-fee programs shortly after shutdown began, including outdoor scavenger hunt, chair yoga, history project on Stumpy's Winter Trail. FVCS continues to modify programs and operating plans to meet COVID requirements while providing safe activities for all ages. Summer kids programs included soccer for kids, adventure camps, etc. Cross-country running program to start soon and FVCS is running a program to provide internet and some assistance to kids attending school from home at the Girdwood Chapel. As weather changes, FVCS is working on plans to provide programs at the Girdwood Chapel and Meadows as well as on-line classes. FVCS has received CARES Act Payroll Protection Plan funding and is applying for Alaska Can-do Grant. March-June were non-revenue months, July and August broke even. Class sizes are limited while more staff are needed to maintain COVID guidelines. GBOS funding is critical component to the ongoing success of FVCS programs.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

Jerry Fox states that the work of all these groups is impressive as they have adapted and provided innovative solutions to challenges presented by COVID-19.

Adjourn 8:15PM