

# Municipality of Anchorage



*P.O. Box 390  
Girdwood, Alaska 99587  
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>*

*Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor*

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

## Resolution 2020-10 Of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR LITTLE BEARS PLAYHOUSE, INC.**

Whereas, Little Bears Playhouse is the only full-time licensed childcare provider in Girdwood and has provided this critical service in the community for almost 40 years; and

Whereas, structural analysis of the existing facility in 2011 revealed deficiencies that required immediate structural rehabilitation, significant on-going maintenance, and operational changes regarding occupancy in order to continue to be used by the community; and

Whereas, despite on-going maintenance and structural work, the buildings continued to age and degrade, and are far from conforming to municipal code requirements for their existing uses, operating only through grandfather rights; and

Whereas, for well over a decade, Little Bears Playhouse Board of Directors, a non-profit board comprised mainly of parent volunteers who rely on child care provided by Little Bears Playhouse, has held fundraisers, has researched and developed various partnerships, collaborations and locations to in order to build an adequate child care facility in which to care for our youngest citizens; and

Whereas, the community has supported and Girdwood Board of Supervisors has written resolutions regarding various plans explored by Little Bears Playhouse, Inc Board of Directors for refurbishment, replacement, rebuild and bonding for construction of a facility, including a 2008 resolution supporting rebuild, resolutions in 2014 - 2016 regarding construction in conjunction with the Turnagain Arm Service Coalition (TASC) in the South Townsite, and resolution in 2019 for bonding proposition for rebuild in the current location; and

Whereas, at the September 16, 2019 Girdwood Land Use Committee meeting, support for a new childcare building filled the community room and achieved a vote of 111 in favor, 0 opposed and 4 abstaining; and

Whereas, in the April 2020 municipal election, 80% of Girdwood voters voted in favor of taxing themselves to build a new child care facility, although the bond proposition failed Areawide; and

Whereas, the inadequacies of the current child care facility in which Little Bears Playhouse operates were demonstrated during the closure and subsequent re-opening during the COVID-19 pandemic, with demand for service far greater than the supply available for child care within the existing facility; and

Whereas, recent CARES Act funding may provide a new avenue to achieve this long-time goal of the Girdwood community and provide a modern, safe building to provide child care, which is a critical component in our economic recovery, stability and future sustainability; and

Whereas, partnership with Alyeska Resort may provide a new opportunity for construction on GRST-2 land, allowing for a facility to be constructed that meets the space and operational requirements of a modern childcare center; to replace the current Little Bears Playhouse, while additionally meeting the needs of the underserved Girdwood employees and providing additional revenue source by offering service to the visitor population; and

Whereas, it is understood that as this partnership and plan is explored further in the GRST-2 zone it is likely to require a local Conditional Use Process, which may be necessary for construction and operation; and

Whereas, the Girdwood Land Use Committee has voted in favor of Little Bears Playhouse, Inc. to operate a child care facility on land zoned GRST-2 at their regular meeting on September 14, 2020 by a vote of 28 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstaining;

Therefore, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors resolves support for Little Bears Playhouse, Inc. to pursue development and operation on GRST-2 land, as well as pursue grant and other funding opportunities, for the purpose of building a new childcare center facility.


Be it also resolved that the Girdwood Board of Supervisors recognizes the resiliency and persistence of the many members of the Little Bears Playhouse Inc. Board of Directors in pursuing all options and all possibilities for collaboration over the last decade, and recognizes that the children who were attending Little Bears in 2008, when this project first was presented to GBOS, are now high school age.

Passed and approved by a vote of 5 to 0 on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2020.



Mike Edgington, Land Use Supervisor, GBOS

Sept 21, 2020  
Date



Attest