

# Municipality of Anchorage



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

*David Bronson, Mayor*

*GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Mike Edgington & Briana Sullivan, Co-Chairs  
Jennifer Wingard, Amanda Sassi, Guy Wade*

## **December 20, 2021 GBOS/LUC Joint Meeting Minutes Final**

**Approved by LUC 1.10.22 and GBOS 1.17.22**

This meeting is taking place via Microsoft Teams.

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 Code 1.25 - Public Meetings.

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

Call to Order 6:02 p.m. Briana Sullivan, Co-Chair  
GBOS Quorum confirmed  
No disclosures  
Roll Call & Disclosures

### **Agenda Revisions and Approval**

December 20 2021 GBOS LUC Joint meeting agenda approval

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Connie Yoshimura: Holtan Hills Development COMMUNITY MEETING on WED Dec 22 at 6:30PM via TEAMS:  
**Join on your computer or mobile app:** [Click here to join the meeting](#) **Or call in (audio only):** [+1 907-519-0237](tel:+19075190237), [571179940#](tel:+19075190237) Phone Conference ID: 571 179 940#

### **BUSINESS:**

1. Discuss status of hybrid, virtual, and in-person meetings & return to regular meetings.

Community has expressed interest in hybrid meetings and attendance at meetings has increased with virtual attendance.

Staff will work with KEUL to ensure that radio still functions well. Issue with that is audience participation in the Community Room and white noise from air handling system.

Set up time will vary based on which meeting is taking place as the format for each is a bit different. Goal is to have the hybrid system on a rolling cart so that set up is as quick as possible. Some changes to process of holding meetings may need to take place (having central speaker location for discussions) so that microphones can pick up what is being said in the room.

Cost for equipment is between \$2500 and \$6000. \$2500 covers computers and conferencing system/microphones. The additional amount covers acquisition of a new projector, as the system currently in use may not be compatible and is definitely out of date and difficult to get replacement parts for (bulbs).

Discussion:

Virtual meetings encourage more attendance, quality of attention is variable

Voting: In person meetings votes are not anonymous, however poll voting is unless staff downloads the poll to show votes. Voice votes and chat votes are not anonymous.

Concern about counting votes in a timely manner if there is an item with a close tally, trails and LUC may need to move to voice vote to get accurate count if there are close votes.

Concern about confirming eligibility in voting.

Group discusses that GBOS will be considering change to bylaws to allow hybrid meetings regardless of health situation.

Community poll could be used to determine interest of the various groups in hybrid meetings and trails, land use etc can use that information to guide them.

Item will be added to Jan 2022 committee meeting agendas.

## 2. Discussion of process to move items from new to old business

Confusion at committees when some items are allowed to move from new to old business and others are not. Main item to allow movement is time constraints, such as application deadlines or upcoming meeting deadlines. For simplicity, all items are held to the 2 meeting policy to ensure that the community is aware of the topics with an introduction followed by a hearing, and this does accomplish engaging the community in discussions. A clear set of reasons for petitioner to request relief from 2 meeting requirement could be developed. Also, it could be required that a 2/3 majority vote is required in order to allow movement from new to old business.

Item will be added to Jan 2022 committee meeting agendas.

## 3. Discuss Land Acknowledgment Statement

Melissa Shaginoff provided seminar on Land Acknowledgement about a year ago but no statement has come forward from LUC and there has been little input of ideas for such a statement, although members of the community have expressed some interest in having one.

Diana Stram offers to research and provide a concept statement for LUC in January.

GTC members did some research and came up with some information that was used on the Lower INHT signage, see below.

### **Did the Dena'ina live in this valley?**

**It is not likely the Dena'ina lived in this valley. The Headwaters People had place names for the valleys to the west of here and for the Portage area. For example, the name of Portage Pass was *Ulchena Hch'aqedeht*, Where the Alutiiqs Come Out. However, the Dena'ina have no recorded place names for this valley or the valley to the east, the Twentymile River Valley. This probably means that the Dena'ina did not use these two valleys much or have permanent homes here.**

### **Why not live here?**

**Before there was a railroad and a highway along Turnagain Arm, this isolated valley was hard to reach, even in boats. It's also likely that the Girdwood and Twentymile River Valleys served as a buffer between the Dena'ina and the Alutiiq of Prince William Sound.**

**Where you are now standing is a part of the *Dena'ina Etnena*—Dena'ina Homeland.**

### **Who are the Dena'ina?**

**The Dena'ina are the last Alaska Native group to establish themselves in the Cook Inlet region.**

**They likely came from the west in two migrations during 500-1000 A.D. and are the only Northern Athabascans to have territory that borders salt water.**

### **Who are the Headwaters People?**

**The Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina organized themselves into twelve regional bands. The Turnagain Arm band was known as *Tutl'uht'ana*, the Headwaters People, because the Dena'ina believed Turnagain Arm was the headwaters of Cook Inlet. Most Headwaters People lived on the flat, lake-filled land of the Kenai Peninsula that borders Turnagain Arm.**

***Dena'ina quht'ana chin'an, chin'an gheli gu yeh***

***Dena'ina etnen'aq'fuh ch'nidatl' ghu***

**Thank you Dena'ina people for letting us walk on your land**



Other: None  
Adjourn 6:55PM