

**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 & Robert Snitzer, Co-Chairs
Eryn Boone, Mike Edgington, Sam Daniel*

**Resolution 2018-010
Of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors**

Resolution of Support for a text amendment to Anchorage Municipal Code 21.09, Girdwood Land Use Regulations, to make the “Child Care Facility” use-type a permitted use in the Girdwood Institutions and Parks (GIP) District. The use-type would be added to the list in AMC 21.09.040.F.4.d.i.

WHEREAS, Little Bears Playhouse, Inc. is a non-profit childcare facility serving the families of Girdwood and the Four Valleys area of the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Little Bears Playhouse, Inc. is to provide a safe, caring environment that promotes sound emotional, social, cognitive and physical development of children while strengthening and encouraging positive relationships among child care professionals, families and the community; and

WHEREAS, Little Bears Playhouse, Inc. was formed by a group of Girdwood families in the early 1980's who collaborated to create a quality, affordable, child care cooperative at a time that no facility of that type existed in Girdwood, and

WHEREAS, Little Bears Playhouse, Inc. currently remains the only non-profit provider of quality childcare in Girdwood, and provides 46 families childcare services, with 8 employees servicing 30 children, and

WHEREAS, Little Bears Playhouse, Inc. is physically located in Girdwood's town center, near the Lions club park, Forest Fair Park, library, and community center that are all utilized by Little Bears Playhouse Inc. to provide necessary services and engaging activities for students of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Little Bears Playhouse, Inc. is adjacent Little Bears Playground, which was constructed in a community effort in 2006 in that location for the purpose of providing a safe play area for children attending Little Bears for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Little Bears Playhouse, Inc. is located in a highly accessible location for Girdwood families, including access on Girdwood's trail system, providing families with a safe pedestrian, bike, or ski commute to and from the facility, and on the main route of Girdwood's free public transportation system, Glacier Valley Transit, and

WHEREAS, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors recognizes the urgent need for improved conditions of the current facility in Girdwood, and recognizes building improvements are crucial to provide safe and effective child care services to the families of Girdwood; and

WHEREAS, Little Bears Playhouse, Inc., has investigated many options for updating, rebuilding, or relocating the facility, and has currently passed a resolution in support of partnering with the Municipality of Anchorage to improve and rebuild the facility in the existing lot as the preferred option, and

WHEREAS, Little Bears Playhouse, Inc., has operated successfully in the current location for over 30 years, and the operation of the child care facility is grandfathered in to that location with the existing building; and

WHEREAS, this item has been discussed at the Girdwood Land Use Committee at their regular meetings on March 12 and April 9, 2018, resulting in LUC recommendation for the GBOS to write a Resolution of Support for Little Bears Playhouse, Inc. by a vote of 8to 0;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in support of a child care facility improvement plan, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors supports a Memorandum of Agreement between Little Bears Playhouse, Inc. and the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department to move forward with the plan concept; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Girdwood Board of Supervisors requests the support and assistance from the Municipality of Anchorage Administration, Planning Department and the Heritage Land Bank in a text amendment to Anchorage Municipal Code 21.09, Girdwood Land Use Regulations, to make the "Child Care Facility" use-type a permitted use in the Girdwood Institutions and Parks (GIP) District. The use-type would be added to the list in AMC 21.09.040.F.4.d.i

Passed and approved by the Girdwood Board of Supervisors the 16th day of April, 2018 by a vote of 4 to 0.

Eryn Boone 4/18/18
Eryn Boone Date
GBOS Parks and Rec Supervisor

Mary A. Johnson
Witness