

Girdwood Cemetery Committee

Date: July 20, 2023

12PM

Meeting Notes

This meeting is taking place via teams with in-person attendance in the Girdwood Community Room, 250 Egloff Rd.

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 Cemetery Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

Call to order 12PM Tommy O'Malley, Chair

As there is no quorum, this meeting becomes an update with municipal staff and no formal action is taken.

Agenda Approval for July 20 2023 meeting
Minutes approval from June 15 2023 meeting

Old Business:

1. Discuss bonding in Spring 2024 election
 - Update on status of cemetery as Areawide service: completed with AO2023-58S
AO cited Girdwood, Eagle River and Anchorage Cemetery upgrades specifically
Possible that as a result Cemetery may become a stand-alone department of the MOA
Cemeteries will likely maintain their own "friends" groups and have an overall guidance board with representatives from each community.
 - Status of MOA cemetery bond propositions: working with Kevin Cross, Randy Sulte and Zac Johnson. Bond Proposition will be coming forward as an Assembly item.
Group discusses that if the bond proposition passes, the Girdwood Cemetery Committee will evolve into more of a friends group, similar to the friends of the library group. This will remove requirements of public meetings as they will not be making recommendations for spending public funds
 - Assembly support is strong, AO passed 10-0 with 2 members absent.
 - Review Fact Sheet and talking points: Tommy will work with another member of the cemetery group to update the language in the fact sheet. He has a volunteer who has offered to re-create the flyer.
 - Discuss groups/dates to address targeted voting population prior to vote-by-mail upon approval of bond prop by Assembly. Pending. Bond will include funds for construction, maintenance, operation and management of the cemeteries.
2. Update on status of request for Girdwood Inc Account and authorized members of Friends of the Girdwood Cemetery to the account. Tommy O'Malley will be the authorized member for setting up the account. This account will allow the future Friends group to hold funds and spend them on Cemetery projects outside of the municipal system.
3. Original Girdwood Cemetery status and handling of remains
Article in the Turnagain News spurred a new study to review possibility of gravesites in the area.

New Business

Public Comment:

Jack Goodnoe recommended that cemetery contract with Lane and Sloan to develop economic plans for the cemetery; he also recommended that the cemeteries maintain their own advisory boards and add seats to the Anchorage Memorial Park board to represent Eagle River and Girdwood interests.

Other Business: Next meeting August 24 at noon

Adjourn 12:25