

Girdwood Land Use Committee
Notice of Meeting on December 13, 2021
7PM
Minutes Final

Meeting held via Teams teleconference

Agenda Item LUC 2112-01:

Call to order 7PM Kevin McDermott, Chair

Agenda Approval for December 13 2021 meeting Deb Essex/Kalie Harrison

Minutes Approval for the November 8 2021 meeting Mike Edgington/Kalie Harrison

LUC Officer reports None

Announcements & Presentations:

LUC is seeking a volunteer to attend Federation of Community Councils meetings, which are held the 3rd WED each month 6PM-8PM.

Chugach Electric has advised of scheduled outage this WED and FRI from 12AM-4AM.

Holtan Hills project will be presented by development group on December 22 at 6:30PM via teleconference. See information included in the LUC meeting packet. The meeting info is: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only) [+1 907-519-0237](tel:+19075190237), [571179940#](tel:+190751979940) Phone Conference ID: 571 179 940#

Agenda Item LUC 2112-02: None.

Agenda Item LUC 2112-03: Committee written reports are included in the meeting packet monthly.
No items that require additional discussion.

Old Business:

Agenda Item LUC 2111-04: Finalize agenda topics for proposed GBOS/LUC Joint meeting, scheduled for MON Dec 20 at 6PM).

*Status of hybrid, virtual, and in-person meetings & return to regular meetings.

*Requirements to move items from new to old business

*Land Acknowledgement

No change

Agenda Item LUC 2111-06: Girdwood LUC Officer elections will be held at the LUC Regular Jan 10 2022. Roles are Chair, 2 vice Chairs.

Agenda Item LUC 2111-07: USDA USFS request for LUC recommendation of GBOS Resolution of Support for the USDA USFS acquisition of 8.05 acres of land at 144 Forest Station Road, which is currently leased from HLB.

Lease is up for renewal in the end of 2022. USFS is eager to buy the land instead of continuing to lease it in order to maintain a permanent location in Girdwood and invest more in infrastructure here to support staff and programs. HLB commission has voted to approve the sale concept, this will move on to Anchorage Assembly next.

Sale would be at the market assessed value

Capital investments considered on the site include updated office space, storage, parking, housing (both improved seasonal housing and year-round housing, as modeled in Moose Pass). Upcoming opportunities for the Forest Service with Great American Outdoor Act funding and other infrastructure funds, which could include additional trails, trail amenities, cabins and recreation development opportunities.

Members of the community speak on behalf of the sale. Importance of having the administrators of Forest Service Area within the community that they are making decisions upon. Value of having permit administrators close by the areas that they permit for, including recreation use, forest, hatchery, Prince William Sound. Value of USFS involvement in local programs and projects, including fungus fair, educational programs, avalanche information, trail crew. Importance of having the USFS a member of the community.

One person states that the USFS wouldn't leave the valley if they didn't purchase the land, they would move to market value lease for the land. District Ranger Charnon agreed that USFS would remain in the valley with lease, but added that capital investment in the site would be diminished and long term need for offices, housing, etc would not be met. Funds from sale would go toward other HLB land projects, as HLB is self-funded. HLB is working on updated work plan, which is available to view here:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/hlb/Pages/Plan.aspx>

Motion:

Girdwood Land Use Committee moves to recommend a GBOS Resolution of Support for the USDA USFS acquisition of 8.05 acres of land at 144 Forest Station Road, currently leased from HLB.

Motion by Kalie Harrison, 2nd by Deb Essex

Poll vote: 21 yes, 0 no, 3 abstain; Chat vote: 2 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain; Verbal vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain

Total: 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstaining

Motion carries.

Girdwood Land Use Committee Meeting Agendas and minutes are available on line: <http://www.muni.org/gbos>

New Business:

Agenda Item LUC 2112-05: Initial presentation of concept plan for new bridge over Glacier Creek, seeking LUC recommendation for GBOS Resolution of Support for the project. (Kyle Kelley)

Concept for Glacier Creek suspension bridge to replace the hand tram and reconnect the Winner Creek Trail is presented. Suspension bridge balances cost, function and aesthetic qualities expressed by community.

\$1.2 M estimated for bridge, plus \$50,000 to create interpretive display and shelter re original hand tram.

Repurpose the existing abutments for bridge, re-use as many of the materials from the existing tram as possible in bridge design.

Bridge would provide year-round, multi-use access, Winner Creek Trail is also route for proposed Alaska Long Trail and is part of the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

Life span is 50+ years with bi-annual maintenance and scheduled inspections.

Alaska State Park recently completed similar concept at Byers Lake. Suspension bridges are novel design for USFS, however USFS is engaged with the team working on the project.

Concerns expressed are related to fundraising for this project and condition of Crow Creek Road, especially for winter access.

Current timeline is to work on design and permitting this winter, bid this spring, construction summer 2022.

Item will be discussed at GBOS next week and will be on GTC, LUC and GBOS agendas for action in January.

Request for GBOS/LUC Joint Meeting (1 of 2 completed in 2021): Held April 29, 2021, next meeting scheduled for Dec 20 at 6PM

Adjourn 8:30PM