

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

April 3, 2023

Minutes Final

This meeting will be held via Teams with in-person attendance at the Girdwood Community Room, 250 Egloff Dr.

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 Public Safety Advisory Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

7PM Call to order Emily Lewis, Co-Chair

Roll call: attending are Emily Lewis, Mike Opalka and Tommy O'Malley

Quorum Confirmed

Agenda approval for April 3 2023 TO/MO 3-0

Minutes approval for Feb 6 2023 TO/MO 3-0

Announcements/Introductions/Presentation:

Old Business:

1) Community relations opportunities:

Coffee with Cops (O'Malley) – No next date set yet.

New date for commemorative signing ceremony: April 18 2023. Feb date was canceled due to weather. Staff will communicate timing and encourage carpooling.

Emily Lewis and Amanda Sassi collaborated on an article regarding public safety in the Girdwood Inc newsletter this month.

Emily Lewis thanks WPD for the ride along opportunity with 2 of the officers. A main takeaway from this experience is that the officers welcome and encourage input regarding enforcement needs. There is a non-emergency number: 907-783-3223, as well as input through this committee.

2) Discuss possible upgrades to Whittier Police Station in Girdwood, owned by ACS (Sassi)

Door, kitchenette, laundry access

Staff met with WPD officers and reviewed the space and requests during the winter. A meeting will be set this spring to do a walk-thru with ACS staff responsible for building modifications. Signage has been added to remind ACS staff that the upstairs is rented to WPD.

New business:

3) Kids online safety program (O'Malley)

Homer recently experienced significant cyber-bullying and initiated outreach to parents regarding these situations, which has attracted some media attention:

<https://www.kbbi.org/local-news/2023-03-23/homer-police-tour-the-state-urging-parents-to-talk-with-kids-about-online-safety>

<https://alaskapublic.org/2023/03/23/alaska-news-nightly-thursday-march-23-2023/>

Girdwood PTA plans to attend this program on May 3, with a follow-up talk facilitated by Leola Rutherford.

<https://www.ptotoday.com/techtalknight>

PSAC would like to assist efforts in the community to address these issues.

Group also discusses that the Clinic held a discussion with STAR (Standing Together Against Rape) in response to increase of reported assault in the community. There is a test stick that can be acquired at the Fire Station and Clinic that can be used to test substances for fentanyl. Group discusses that it would be good to raise awareness that these are available in the community.

4) Seward Highway enforcement/response requests (Opalka)

Chief Achee states that WPD only responds to the Seward Highway in response to emergency mutual aid request by APD. PSAC wants to remain aware of the situation in case requests increase as this is an Areawide function. APD is generally understaffed currently and recruiting for officers. Tommy O'Malley plans to discuss Seward Highway enforcement with APD Chief Kerle.

5) Additional Public Outreach re: parking, 911 system, Police Contract

See information related to these topics in Item 1 and Police Chief Report.

Other Business:

6) Review upcoming community events:

Sitzmark music	FRI/SAT through ski season
Military Monday @ Alyeska	1 st Monday monthly (today was last)
Alyeska Spring Carnival	April 21-23 (Slush Cup April 22)

For Spring Carnival GVSA will set up a temporary impound lot. WPD is aware of the event.

7) Girdwood Grassroots concerns from prior meetings:

- Speeding concerns:

State Roads: Alyeska Highway, Crow Creek Rd, Mt. Hood at Airport – Staff will follow up with AK DOT regarding traffic/speed study in summer 2023.

MOA Roads: Timberline, Alyeska View, Mt. Hood at Neighborhood – MOA has already confirmed a traffic study in summer 2023 on their roads.

- Parking concerns – Timberline, Loveland, Olympic Mtn Loop – Resort opened up more parking, which relieved the issue that was occurring in Feb when this was brought up.

- Holtan Hills Development impact on Public Safety during construction – Holtan Hills development has been postponed indefinitely.

- Alyeska Highway interchange impact on Public Safety – No new information on this project. GBOS has requested 3rd party review of the plan. Safer Seward Highway project addresses different highway segment and is discussed under Public Comment.

8) Roundtable comments from the PSAC board

Emily Lewis: Thank you to WPD for the ride along. Recommend this for any newcomers to the PSAC board.

9) Confirm next meeting date: May 1 Regular meeting and April 18 commemorative signing ceremony.

Public Safety Reports:

WPD Update (WPD Chief Andre Achee) – review most recent stats

Dispatch center has moved to Sitka. There were several hiccups along the way but transition is now complete.

2 APD Student Resource Officers (SROs) attended Whittier School, Girdwood School was also visited by SROs.

GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston) – request written report: GFR has been attending extrication training in Anchorage. Two new utility rigs have been received and are being outfitted for their use. Rescue rig is

in production and is expected to arrive in late summer. GFR is recruiting/interviewing new members to join the Fire Dept.

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report (Amanda Sassi): No report, Amanda is unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Public Comment:

Christina Hendrickson sent email requesting continued ticketing of vehicles that park on the sidewalk and early AM speed enforcement on Alyeska Highway.

Jennifer Wingard: attended Safer Seward Highway meeting in Girdwood last month. Project sounds like it includes more sections of divided highway. Of concern is the overall goal to meet federal highway safety standard that will allow traffic to maintain 65MPH speed throughout the highway span.

Jennifer encourages others to become familiar with the project and provide input at the project website: [Safer Seward Highway](#)

Tommy O'Malley: In discussion with Connie Hibbs he received confirmation that original graveyard located at the mouth of the valley near the Forest Service Station was impacted by the Alyeska Highway/Railroad abutment construction. Impacted burial sites were to have been moved to Hope/Sunrise however the outcome of that is undocumented. One burial is documented to have been re-interred in Seward. The rest of the graveyard was not moved. An archeological survey was conducted some years ago on the area, with possible burials noted. Group discusses that any work on the Alyeska Highway interchange will require National Environment Protection Act (NEPA) Review of the site.

Adjourn 7:50PM