

**Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 4, 2022**  
**Minutes Final**

This meeting was held via 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 Public Safety Advisory Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

7PM Call to order, Ken Waugh Co-Chair

Roll call, attending are Mike Opalka, Tommy O'Malley and Ken Waugh

Quorum confirmed

Agenda approved for April 4 2022 meeting Mike Opalka/Tommy O'Malley

Minutes approval from February 7 2022 meeting Postponed to next meeting

**Announcements/Introductions/Presentation:**

**Old Business:**

- 1) Public Safety Contract Review and suggestions for revisions.  
Policing contract has been sent to each PSAC member. Members are asked to provide their comments on the contract for discussion with attorney who will represent MOA in this negotiation process.  
Meeting to discuss desired changes to the contract will be an executive session.  
Kyle and Chief Achee will meet to discuss the contract next week.  
Meeting with the new APD Chief and Deputy Chief clarified that including Girdwood in APD service would require an Areawide vote to include Girdwood in the Anchorage Police Service Area. This would likely increase Areawide Tax in Girdwood by 2.5mills.  
APD also confirmed that they will continue to patrol the Seward Highway, and are gearing up for additional speed enforcement on the highway.
- 2) Update on MOA budget items of concern to PSAC:  
Status of signed MOA GFD contract: Contract is not signed. MOA requires either that the contract is renegotiated annually and has a budget figure tied to it or that the indefinite contract without a time span or budget figure. GFR Board has not agreed to these terms.  
\$15,000 MOA budget shortfall: Requested in the First Quarter Revisions.  
GFR funding as line item budget item with MOA: No change in status, request has been made, no confirmation from MOA.  
  
Group discusses that Whittier has additional funding stream from cruise ship head tax, some of which is used to help fund staffing of WPD. Girdwood has no such funding stream, a method to receive funds from other than residential property tax to fund items in the community that are used by recreational visitors would be helpful. This would require code change. Bed Tax that visitors pay for overnight stay is divided among Visit Anchorage, Convention Center, AreaWide General fund. The Areawide General fund is part of where EMS funding comes from.
- 3) PSAC Organizational discussion: chair/vice chair election: Postponed to future meeting when all PSAC is present.
- 4) Discuss survey results and determine meeting style for future PSAC meetings (virtual, hybrid, in-person). Survey concluded that public wants hybrid meetings, which can be attended in person and on line with 7PM start time. Starting in May, meetings will shift to hybrid style.

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee is a sub-committee to the Girdwood Board of Supervisors

- 5) Discuss towing/impound plan for Spring Carnival.  
Fred's Towing has confirmed that they will be on site from afternoon-evening for towing. GVSA will set up the impound lot at the Industrial Park, vehicles not retrieved will be taken to Anchorage for Impound. Cost for Fred's Towing to be based in Girdwood is \$500.00.
- 6) PSAC messaging and community relations  
Group discusses that there has been very limited relationship between the communities over the last several years, and that relationship building has been helpful. Goal of this is to have Whittier Police and City Council know that the Whittier Police are appreciated and well thought-of. Kyle offers to attend Whittier meeting with Tommy to meet and greet the Mayor, Town City Council and to visit Chief Achee in person.  
Negotiation of the actual contract is a separate item. PSAC will advise GBOS and attorneys will handle the actual contract negotiations.

Motion:

PSAC to draft a letter stating the sub-committee's appreciation for the Whittier Police Service and commendation for doing a great job serving the community.

Motion by Tommy O'Malley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Opalka

Motion carries 3-0

Staff will draft a letter and present it to PSAC for review; signature at the next PSAC meeting. Letter to be addressed to Whittier Police with cc to Whittier Town Council.

**New business:**

- 7) Request for No Parking signs for specific streets  
This request comes mainly in response to overflow from Daylodge Parking lot into neighborhood streets. Loveland is especially difficult because of amount of drainage/creeks along the roadside. Kyle will provide full list of roads that are of concern at the next meeting. This type of request goes forward to the MOA traffic department and is studied fully by traffic engineers. Limiting parking on residential roads can have a negative impact on the residents of that street.

**Other Business:**

- 8) Review upcoming community events:
 

Alyeska Nordic Hill Climb	April 16
Spring Carnival	April 22-24
Bike to school day	Mid-May - TBA
Last day of school	May 19
Fiddlehead Festival	TBA
Forest Fair	July 1-3
Fungus Fair	TBA
Girdwood Health Fair	TBA

Group notes:

Resort is open on weekends throughout May for skiing.

Request for WPD presence for bike to school day and last day of school.

Chief Weston is working with APD/AFD for support over Spring Carnival and Forest Fair.

- 9) Girdwood Grassroots concerns from prior meetings:
  - Holtan Hills Development proposal & possible impact on Public Safety: Holtan Hills project is slowing down some, there will be more opportunities to discuss the impact on public safety.
  - October Storm recovery reimbursement status: GVSA is filing for reimbursement funds. Service area has paid for all costs incurred so far.
  - Update on Stop signs replacing Yield signs: Traffic Dept has confirmed the replacement of Yield with Stop signs. This item is concluded.

Girdwood Bear Aware Amendment to STRZ code and progress on defective cans: This project was being pursued by John Weddleton, assemblyman up for re-election currently. Also, enforcement officer Jack Frost is retiring.

10) Roundtable comments from the PSAC board: None

11) Set next meeting date: May 2 2022

**Public Safety Reports:**

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

WPD has increased traffic enforcement in Girdwood as vehicle volume has increased.

WPD will attend Mental Health Crisis training in Whittier on May 4.

New officer should be hired in the next 2 weeks, bringing up to full staffing.

Chief will investigate possibility of Whittier funding to help with GFR extrication equipment fund.

GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston) – request written report

3 new members, FF1 class is occurring monthly. Difficult to hire summer staff at current pay rate.

Chief contract pending.

Chief has fundraised approx. \$128,000 for extrication equipment.

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report (Jennifer Wingard) - none

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjourn 8:15PM**