

# Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

## August 1, 2022

### Minutes Draft

This meeting held via Teams and in person 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, Mike Opalka, Co-Chair

Roll call: PSAC attending are Mike Opalka, Ken Waugh, Emily Lewis

GBOS Attending: Amanda Sassi

Tommy O'Malley is absent

Quorum confirmed.

Agenda approval for Aug 1 2022      Ken Waugh/Emily Lewis                      Assent

Minutes approval for June 6 2022      Ken Waugh/Amanda Sassi                      Assent

Minutes approval for May 2 2022      Ken Waugh/Emily Lewis                      Assent

#### **Announcements/Introductions/Presentation:**

Mobile Crisis Intervention Team Presentation – will need to be scheduled for fall with confirmation that PSAC members will be attending. This presentation requires OT by AFD member to attend.

#### **Old Business:**

- 1) Welcome new PSAC Member (Seat A) Emily Lewis

Emily was appointed by GBOS at their June meeting. Emily is specifically interested in speed enforcement and cross walks on Alyeska Highway. She has been reviewing the public safety contract.

- 2) Public Safety Contract Review

Chief Achee and Whittier finance officer have both been out on medical leave, however both have returned to work and are reviewing the contract. Whittier is open to considering a 5 year contract basically structured the same as the existing 3 year agreement. The main change likely to be pursued by Whittier is change from CPI increase annually to a one-time increase by 12% at the beginning of the contract cycle. This increase will cover increase costs of insurance, dispatch, salaries, benefits, fuel, etc.

GBOS is currently working through 2023 budget and is considering policing based on this 12% increase. Total cost of annual public safety, including other expenses, is approximately \$811,000.

PSAC will review contract recommendations at their September meeting.

- 3) Update on MOA budget items of concern to PSAC:

Status of signed MOA GFR contract: GFR Board of Directors is not willing to sign agreement offered by MOA. MOA is not willing to provide a multi-year agreement with escalation clause or stated contract amount. MOA will only provide annual contract with stated contract amount. MOA has indicated that they cannot commit funds contractually as funding is set by the Assembly.

Status of GFR Chief contract: GFR Board and Chief Weston have agreed to updated contract, which has been signed but has not yet been enacted.

GFR funding as line item budget item with MOA: Girdwood will be watching how the Girdwood funding is represented in the 2023 budget.

4) PSAC Organizational discussion: chair/vice chair election  
Tabled as not all PSAC members are in attendance.

5) Discuss Girdwood Forest Fair events  
Return of Forest Fair after 2 years created a great event with lots of preparation. Sixteen cars towed, 1 is still in impound. Fire dept responded to heat related calls, primarily. Child ingested a substance, which was tested inconclusively with field kit. Child was taken to hospital and confirmed ok. Conclusive drug testing still be to be received.

6) Community relations: Coffee with a Cop in fall, Other Opportunities?  
Discussion tabled. Tommy O'Malley has spearheaded this event.

**New business: None**  
**Other Business:**

- 7) Review upcoming community events:
- |                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Blueberry Festival   | August 13-14 |
| Fungus Fair          | Sept 2-4     |
| Girdwood Health Fair | Oct 8        |

8) Girdwood Grassroots concerns from prior meetings:

- Requests for signage:

No Parking signs for specific streets: Loveland request currently tabled;

No parking/speed reduction on Timberline. Addressing commercial activity on Virgin Creek Falls, which is impacting speeding and parking on Timberline. Kyle will be meeting with traffic engineer to discuss signage and options for end of Timberline.

- Holtan Hills Development proposal & possible impact on Public Safety

HHHAC has been formed and is working on a list of community concerns related to the Holtan Hills Development. PSAC member concerns should be shared with HHHAC.

Concerns currently stated are:

- increased traffic on existing roads during construction
- Access/Egress from Crow Creek Road and Hightower to Alyeska Highway
- Snow removal/snow storage plans for new neighborhood development.

It is understood that property taxes from the development will increase tax base for handling services such as snow plowing.

Currently the project is working on tract plats. If built, the development will be produced to code with paved streets, sidewalks, hydrants. Although Phase 1 doesn't call for 2<sup>nd</sup> access to be installed initially, the inclination is to develop the 2<sup>nd</sup> connector with access/egress to Crow Creek Road.

Following tract platting, the next step should be master planning process, which will get to specific details on the development.

- October Storm recovery reimbursement status

State is reviewing charges from storm repairs. Receipts are pending for summer work as there is a dispute with the contractor and MOA regarding fuel variance, as the price of diesel more than doubled from contract initiation in 2021 to work in summer, 2022. Once this is resolved, final reimbursements will be submitted for reimbursement.

- Speeding on Alyeska Highway

Emily Lewis suggests traffic calming on Alyeska Highway:

Radar Speed Signs: These are used on similar state highways such as Sterling Highway thru Cooper Landing and Hope Highway. This will need permission from State as it would sit in their Right of Way. There are installed signs and portable ones.

Kyle will discuss placement of "You are Speeding" signs with the DOT and State Traffic Engineer, who has also been working with Girdwood regarding speeding on the lower part of Crow Creek Road. Signs could be purchased through PSAC in annual budgets.

Speed bumps: Perhaps portable speed bumps would be possible. Constructed ones are not allowed on state highways. Kyle to discuss with State Traffic Engineer/DOT.

Crosswalks: repaint crosswalks on highway. City streets were repainted, State handles striping/painting of their facilities. Kyle will follow up with State DOT regarding repainting.

Whittier will continue to enforce speed limit on Alyeska Highway. Officers have a directive to issue tickets there.

- Park and Ride overnight camping and dumping of vehicles

Kyle and WPD have been working with Fred's Towing and have towed a lot of vehicles from this area. Cost of impound is mostly covered by value of raw materials and used cars. Only one vehicle has been demolished at GVSA expense.

PSAC had inquired about closing off the parking area so that it was not accessible for misuse, however with current enforcement, going to this effort and expense seems unnecessary.

- Crosswalk re-paint – discussed earlier.

#### 9) Roundtable comments from the PSAC board

Mike Opalka – Does WPD need anything from PSAC currently?

WPD: No, looking forward to completion of contract. WPD Officers enjoy relationship with Girdwood.

Ken Waugh – No Motor Vehicle signs stolen from bike path.

Kyle: yes, strategic acquisition, left the bolts with the sign candlestick holder. Replaced missing sign.

Highway crosswalk signs also get moved, tipped, etc.

Amanda Sassi – Bears in the community, one has learned how to open car doors. Keep car doors locked.

#### 10) Confirm next meeting date: September 5 2022 is Labor Day.

Margaret will poll PSAC for alternate date so that PSAC can review contract amendments.

### **Public Safety Reports:**

WPD Update (WPD Joe Corbett) – Busy Forest Fair with 89 calls over that weekend; 123 calls through the rest of July. Issue with 911 system at the new clinic, seems to be getting resolved. Transient RVs are in the community, use non-emergency number to have WPD stop in and check on them.

Outside of Girdwood, busy with bad single car accident in Whittier and boat fire at the harbor. Thank you Girdwood Fire for response to both those incidents.

Working with ADF&G regarding bear issues. Report trash/food issues to WPD, they can write tickets.

GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston)

Open House on TUE Aug 2 and 16 at 7PM. Member recruitment.

DPS Trailer for live fire simulation was a great success. It has now moved on to Cooper Landing.

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report (Amanda Sassi)

GBOS has funded \$190,000 for replacement Utility 41 and Command 41 vehicles and \$25,000 for 9 sets of turnouts. Received a presentation from DOT regarding Community Transportation Plan funding and Transportation Alternatives Funding, these programs will help to fund road/trail infrastructure outside of the municipal areas of Fairbanks and Anchorage. Girdwood and Crow Creek are considered one area, maximum award is one of each type of project within an area.

MOA GBOS meeting was held last week, Municipal Manager is on board with assisting in effort to get the public safety contract fully executed before contract expires Dec 31.

Holtan Hills Housing Advisory Committee meeting on TUE at 4PM.

GTC regular meeting TUE at 7PM.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjourn 8:30PM**