

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
August 2, 2021
Minutes Final

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.

7:06PMPM Call to order Mike Opalka, Co-Chair

Roll call: attending are Mike Opalka, Tommy O'Malley, Jason Porter
Ken Waugh is absent.

Chief Achee and Jennifer Wingard are attending via teleconference

Quorum confirmed

Agenda approval for Aug 2, 2021 meeting JP/TO 3-0

Minutes approval from May 3 2021 meeting JP/MO 2-0

Announcements/Introductions/Presentation: None
Old Business:

1) Introduce new PSAC member, Tommy O'Malley

2) PSAC Organizational discussion

Elect co-chairs for 2021/22 - tabled for meeting when all PSAC members are attending.

Discuss filling PSAC seat - filled.

Contract renewal cycle - 17 months to end of 3 year contract. Contract has 2 1-year extensions possible, if agreeable to both parties (ie Whittier and Girdwood)

First step is to identify and evaluate all options for police service and determine which is the best for Girdwood. Research and analysis of other similar sized communities is a component of this review. Staff will compile and present information in upcoming meetings.

If best option is contract with Whittier, then work begins between Whittier and Anchorage attorneys to negotiate contract. It is possible to consider a longer contract span. MOA attorney is Todd Sherwood, Whittier attorney is Holly Wells. Both have been involved in previous public safety contracts.

Tommy O'Malley offers to attend Whittier Town Council meetings in September or October. Chief Achee will provide information to Tommy on time and date of meetings and will help Tommy address the council. Currently meetings are being held virtually.

New business:

3) Discuss business card purchase for use during upcoming contract cycle

Tommy O'Malley states that having business cards printed would be helpful for meetings. Staff will acquire card stock and will create business cards.

Other Business:

4) Review upcoming community events:

Downhill Biking	THU-SUN thru Sept 12
Daylodge Parking Camping	Ongoing thru fall
Girdwood Tent Camping	Ongoing thru Mid Sept

Blueberry Festival	August	Canceled
School Start	August 17	
Mountaintop Music Festival	August 28	Definite
Alyeska Climbathon	September 11	Definite
Oktoberfest	Sept	Canceled
Girdwood Trail Marathon	October 2	Definite
ASD Winter Break	Dec 16-Jan 3	
New Years Eve	Dec 31	Events TBA

5) Girdwood Grassroots concerns from prior meetings:

Update on request to lower speed limit on Crow Creek Road – checking with SOA on traffic study.

Update on Special Events Impound Parking & Towing – system in place for New Years Eve.

Update on no parking signs (Garmish/Echo): in place and successful

Update on Stop signs replacing Yield signs – MOA traffic Dept is backlogged and review of these requests is pending.

Girdwood Bear Aware bear activity – hired staff this summer to patrol and assist community. Commercial dumpsters and defecting residential cans are issues this summer. Wind River Bear Institute provided proactive work early this summer. GBA is working on improvements to Secure Trash Regulation Zone language.

Domestic Violence information campaign - Briana Sullivan is working on information campaign regarding resources available for those who need help. Group discusses resources to provide transportation to safe accommodation if needed. Chief Achee states that when needed, transportation is made available through shelters, which receive grants for this purpose.

Mental Health Crisis Intervention Team – new service implemented through areawide alcohol tax provides training and services to first responder community to assist with calls that relate to people with mental health issues.

6) Roundtable comments from the PSAC board

Tommy O’Malley is interested in becoming more involved in the Crisis Intervention Team to ensure that Girdwood receives help to support our first responders and community.

Tommy O’Malley is interested in how information about call volume and types of police activity are reported. Chief Achee provides a report and it is posted on the GBOS website. Last report was from April, so updated information is due.

7) Set next meeting date: September 6 is Labor Day. Staff will send poll to set a date for the meeting that does not fall on a holiday.

Public Safety Reports:

WPD Update (WPD Chief Andre Achee) – review most recent stats (March-April 2021)

Traffic enforcement as requested by community, especially on Alyeska Highway, Timberline and Crow Creek Rd. Officer stationed in Girdwood overnight to provide better coverage during busy summer. Assisting in trash/bear calls as needed.

GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston) – request written report

No report, Chief Weston is currently out of state working on the Bootleg Fire. Fire Department contract with MOA is pending. Last report was that the contract had received input from Legal dept.

EMS is pending contract signature, although \$300,000 increase in EMS funding for 2021 was approved by the Assembly, contract needs to be signed. This funding increase should be carried over to future years as well, per contract. Billing from out-of-service area responses has been successful.

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report (Jennifer Wingard). Most items already covered.

Other items related to safety that are of community interest are:

Hand Tram Safety Improvements

Pedestrian Pathway improvements

GBOS Budget meeting 1 has been held

MOA/GBOS Quarterly Meeting was an introduction to the new administration.

Public Safety Outreach Opportunities/Events:

Coffee with the Cops program to be added to the September meeting agenda.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn 8PM