

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

August 11, 2026

Minutes Draft

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

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

7PM Call to order, Luke Niedringhaus, co-chair

Roll call: Attending are Luke Niedringhaus, Debra Croghan and Amanda Tuttle.

Quorum confirmed.

GBOS: Amanda Tuttle

Agenda approval for August 11 2026 meeting LN/AT Assent

Minutes approval from June 9 2025 meeting LN/AT Assent

Announcements/Introductions/Presentation:

See meeting packet for information on Smart911 and sprinkler distribution.

Old Business:

1. QR code for PSAC and New FAQ info.

QR code is posted on library, community room and post office bulletin boards.

Info sheet for Police Service in Girdwood was revised to separate PSAC info from Police information.

Staff is seeking approval from WPD before posting.

2. Progress with Traffic and Traffic control study of Hightower Road.

Follow up from earlier request from the Municipal Manager is that Phase 1 of Holtan Hills was shared with GBOS:

With respect to Holtan Hills, the plat application for phase 1 of the project has been submitted and the Traffic Department has determined that the trip generation for phase 1 does not hit the minimum threshold for imposing the traffic study requirement. That said, this may change as platting actions for additional phases of the project come forward.

PSAC still wants a traffic study for the area, including Alyeska Highway. Alyeska Highway is DOT right-of-way.

Motion:

GHEC moves to have Amanda Tuttle write a letter for GBOS to review at their regular meeting on MON Aug 17.

Motion by LN/2nd DC

Assent

Resolution 2025-14 is the prior GBOS resolution on this topic.

Amanda plans to draft the letter and have it circulated to PSAC members, provide final to GBOS for their meeting Monday.

3. Update on GBOS Public Safety Liaison meeting with DOT:

Amanda Tuttle has not been successful in meeting with DOT Southcentral Region director. Position is currently filled by Katherine Keith, in an "acting" capacity. Katherine Keith is Deputy Commissioner for the AKDOTPF.

Topics that she was going to take up with them are:

- Alyeska Highway proposed speed limit changes and countermeasures to support new speed zones
- Alyeska Highway bike path concerns

In addition, recent death of a bore tide surfer has highlighted Turnagain Arm concerns

For reference, meeting packet from June 2026 includes the study and recommendation from prior director Sean Holland.

Group discusses trying to establish consistent communication with DOT on a local level.

Debra Croghan will reach out to local DOT to see about getting participation at PSAC.

4. Public Safety Contract after 2027:

Ideas to be considered in next contract cycle (starting Jan 1 2028)

- Potential for enforcement of Municipal code
- Longer contract period

PSAC requests that the police activities report include general location of the activity reported: Town Center Area, Old Girdwood, Resort Area.

5. MOA tax levy funds for Police IT

Projects must be for Girdwood use. Proposed List needed for GBOS AUG meeting

PSAC makes no recommendation. GVSA manager and WPD will know better what equipment is needed and fills the funding requirements.

6. MOA tax levy funds for Tourism Improvement Projects

Projects must be for promotion of tourism.

Ideas discussed:

- signage needs to direct visitors to trails and resources
- public restrooms in high density visitation areas, such as the Girdwood Station Mall
- trash service in high density visitation areas, such as Girdwood Station Mall
- additional signage to encourage visitors to use facilities such as the US Forest Service, which has restrooms and visitor information
- Potential for creating a rest-stop with restrooms along the highway north or south of Girdwood.

Motion:

PSAC moves to recommend that GBOS focus on TIPS projects to focus on trash and bathrooms, starting at the entry to the valley near the Girdwood Station Mall.

Motion by DC/2nd LN

Motion carries by assent

7. GVSA Public Safety Budget

Proposed budget is reviewed. Police services are contractually set. Funding for other projects such as towing, etc are not specifically called out. Funding request for Wind River Bear Institute was received, some amount of MISC funds could be used for that.

New Business:

8. Discuss any new and ongoing Girdwood public safety concerns (see meeting packet)

Mini e-dirt bikes on parks, trails and roads: no discussion on this, response this summer by staff was social media post regarding what types of equipment are allowed on trails, roads, etc.

Items discussed:

- Complaint of refrigerator truck at merc impeding roadway and causing noise requests PSAC action on this for 2027 Forest Fair. Discussed but no action taken.
- Request to eliminate passing lane on Alyeska Highway - this is added to Debra's list to discuss with DOT
- Request to create formal crosswalk at Ruane Rd for access to Lower INHT. – added to Debra's list
- Brewery overflow parking was brought up at last meeting. Debra wants to revisit this and suggests making the no parking signs two-sided so that they are more visible to drivers. Road signage is MOA traffic dept responsibility – Debra Crogan to reach out to MOA traffic dept.
- Turnagain Arm Access – Andy Morrison has been working with DOT and Sen. Murkowski's office regarding improving emergency access to Turnagain Arm and replacing access that was removed with highway work several years ago. Ideas include access just south of Girdwood, which would require gravel to create boat launch and an area north of Girdwood between pullout 2 and 3, where there is a cliff that rescue boat could be lifted down to water. This would require GFD to have a ladder truck capable of operating in this way.
- Old Girdwood flooding at Gold Avenue and water quality concerns in drainage. – this is a DOT item related to culverts. Creek used to be dredged to improve drainage. Tuttle requests that an engineer look at the Girdwood Valley for recommendations on how to address the need for modernization of the drainage installed post-1964.

9. PSAC Vacancy

Mike Opalka hasn't formally resigned but has indicated that he is unable to continue serving on PSAC and plans to move. Vacancy will be addressed at GBOS, which appoints PSAC members.

Reports/Ongoing items:

10. Review recent/upcoming community events (see meeting packet)
Forest Fair follow-up: Report received after this meeting and provided in the final meeting packet
Coffee with cops/Kids and Cops: No planned events
11. Other Community relations opportunities:
PSAC member ride along with WPD
Outreach via community resources: Newspaper; Newsletters; Clinic; Other
12. Roundtable comments from the PSAC board

Amanda Tuttle has received reports from AWWU that indicate the utility has been out of compliance regarding discharge in the mixing zone where treated sewage is discharged into Glacier Creek. She is reaching out to DEC and EPA regarding a corrective action plan.

13. Next meeting dates
October 13 7PM
Dec 15 7PM
2027 dates TBA

Public Safety Reports:

WPD Update (WPD Chief Andre Achee) – review most recent stats: received and added to final meeting packet.
GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston) – request written report
GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report

Public Comment: None

Adjourn: 9PM