

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

December 4, 2023

Minutes Draft

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.

7:02PM Call to order, Ken Waugh, Co-Chair

Roll call, PSAC attending are Ken Waugh, Tommy O'Malley.

Mike Opalka is absent, Emily Lewis has resigned.

Amanda Sassi will attend to meet quorum.

Quorum confirmed.

Agenda approval for December 4 2023	Tommy O'Malley/Amanda Sassi	Assent
Minutes approval from October 2 2023	Ken Waugh/Tommy O'Malley	Assent
Minutes approval from Sept 12 2023	Tommy O'Malley/Amanda Sassi	Assent

Announcements/Introductions/Presentation:

Foraker Group Board Training is scheduled for TUE Feb 27 at 5PM in the Girdwood Community Room. All are welcome to attend.

Old Business:

1) Community relations:

Outreach with WPD info and EMS Info to the following: Newspaper; newsletters; Clinic, Other:

Michelle Weston provides articles to the Turnagain News as she is able and recently started sending Public Service Announcements to KEUL.

Public Safety helpful numbers info sheet (Weston): Pending project

Review Events:

Parenting in the Digital Age Event October 6 had 20 adults, 10 kids and was informative.

Kids & Cops in October was attended by 20 kids and parents.

Coffee with Cops in November was attended by 30 people. All are successful outreach for community and police to learn more about one another.

2) Discuss WPD crisis intervention training paid for by MOA areawide alcohol tax funds.

Assembly moved some of the funds from the alcohol tax to the regular budget as they felt the programs belonged under regular budget for long-term funding. Mayor Bronson recently vetoed this portion of the budget, however Assembly is expected to override this veto in an upcoming meeting soon.

APD administers the funds but they are able to spend them in the GVSA even though GVSA is not part of the MOA Police Service Area. This will need to be watched to ensure that it occurs, after the veto is handled.

Alcohol tax still remains in place and still funds some services.

PSAC will continue to monitor this. There is no action to take at this time, pending Assembly override of Mayor's veto.

3) Neighbor concerns about parties on airport land/management of access gate

Long standing issue with use of land for parties. With construction of the hangar condominium, there is an access gate that is under control of the condo owners, AWWU and Alyeska Snowmaking. Parties are prevalent during holidays and event weekends. Speeding is consistent problem on Mt. Hood and is one of the areas that WPD patrols for speeding frequently as requested by neighborhood.

Neighbors are encouraged to call WPD when disturbances are taking place. Land is managed by DOT, FAA requires that DOT control access. Neighbors will be provided with the DOT leasing manager's name and number, to report trespassing and request that gate management is addressed with the owners of property beyond the gate.

Plan for holiday season is for staff to reach out to DOT Leasing and to AWWU and request that the gate is locked on New Years. WPD will patrol the area and check that gate is locked. Staff recommends that PSAC move to write a letter to DOT prior to holidays and perhaps pursue a second gate past the hangars, which is only legally accessed by AWWU and Alyeska for snowmaking operations.

Motion:

PSAC moves to contact MOA Legal dept for legal review and list of state statute applicable and to recommend that GBOS write a letter to DOT requesting management of the gate.

Motion by Tommy O'Malley/2nd by Amanda Sassi

Motion fails 1-2 in roll call vote

Discussion focuses on lack of staff at MOA Legal and that this item would not be addressed by them in time for holiday action. A separate motion to address only recommending a letter by GBOS to DOT dies without a 2nd of the motion.

New business:

4) PSAC Officer Election at the Jan 2024 meeting. Positions are 2 co-chairs.

Emily Lewis has resigned due to health issue.

Ken Waugh will be leaving the PSAC in January as well.

This leaves 2 open seats to fill as well as the election of officers.

PSAC seats are filled by interested parties providing a resume and/or letter of interest followed by appointment by GBOS. People who are interested should send resume or note to Margaret or Kyle: gpsac@muni.org;

tylerms@muni.org; kellelykt@muni.org

Other Business:

5) Review upcoming community events (see meeting packet)

In addition to listed events, the Solstice Ski is Dec 21.

6) GVSA Manager Update on concerns from prior meetings (see meeting packet)

Update that there is a new DOT Central Region Director, who is familiar with Girdwood. Staff will reach out to him in spring regarding funds to re-paint the stencils.

Bridge abutment at Glacier Creek has been discussed at GBOS with DOT Director. Flow has moved away from the abutment, DOT currently plans to work on the project in March, before full breakup flow. Project should take a month and will replace and improve the prior abutment.

Staff will follow up on results of traffic studies performed in 2023.

7) Roundtable comments from the PSAC board

Tommy supports finding new members to serve on PSAC, to reflect community interests in policing.

8) Confirm next meeting date: Jan 1, 2024 (Reschedule needed)

Poll will be sent out to determine a meeting either on Jan 9 or Jan 16.

Public Safety Reports:

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

Stats and other information in the written report. Becoming steadily busier with skiing and parties. New security contractor handling the Sitzmark. Plan for New Years is for overlapping coverage 10P-3A with 2+ officers on and 2+ available if needed for call out.

GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston) – request written report

421 calls YTD, 7 new members, several longer term members are leaving the department. New Year's Eve plan is to have 8 people available to respond if needed.

Assembly added funds to MOA EMS budget to fully-fund EMS. This was approved by the Mayor as well. This is the first time that the MOA EMS budget has been fully funded.

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report (Amanda Sassi): GBOS approved \$15,000 in station improvements. This will be added to the 2024 budget in First Quarter Revisions.

Public Comment:

Debra Croghan: Last year and soon this year the berms along Alyeska Highway will be hard to see over. Staff offers to call DOT for banks to be cut down, call office 343-8374 and report when it needs to be done.

Adjourn 8:15PM