

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
June 6, 2022
Minutes Final

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, Ken Waugh, Co-Chair

Roll call & Confirmation of Quorum

Attending are Mike Opalka, Ken Waugh, Amanda Sassi (GBOS Liaison) Quorum confirmed

Other attending: Michelle Weston, GFR Chief; Joe Corbett, WPD Acting Chief & Briana Sullivan

Agenda approved for June 6 2022 meeting

Mike Opalka/Amanda Sassi

Assent vote 3-0

Minutes approval for May 2 2022 meeting

Postponed to next meeting

Announcements/Introductions/Presentation:

Mobile Crisis Intervention Team Presentation – postponed for a date with more PSAC in attendance.

Old Business:

1) Welcome new GBOS PSAC Supervisor, Amanda Sassi

2) Public Safety Contract Review and suggestions for revisions.

WPD will provide contract funding that they will request. Whittier may request to remove annual Consumer Price Index change currently in contract and replace it with flat annual increase.

Ken Waugh asks about adding response time to the contract. Concern that this would essentially require full time staffing in Girdwood, which would change the contract cost substantially. It is noted that the current response time by WPD when they are out of Girdwood is similar to APD response time if they are not on the Seward Highway.

PSAC vote to request GBOS Resolution of Support for contract with City of Whittier for Police Services will wait until contract has been negotiated and PSAC can review the draft agreement.

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

Status of signed MOA GFR contract – GFR Board opted not to sign the agreement with MOA as they don't agree with some of the terms of the contract. MOA will offer a contract with a contracted cost only annually. MOA will not offer a multi-year agreement with contracted price. MoA also refuses to include cost of living increase in the contract.

Status of GFR Chief contract – Not discussed

GFR funding as line item budget item with MOA – not discussed.

4) PSAC Organizational discussion: filling open seat, chair/vice chair election

Empty seat has been posted; posting is open thru June 17. Appointment will be made by GBOS.

5) Discuss Girdwood Forest Fair public safety preparations

Forest Fair is working through permitting. WPD will have full staff for the weekend, towing contract is in place and impound yard will be set up. Girdwood Forest Fair is contracting with private security. Fire Department has requested mobile command to be on site for the weekend and has secured a

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

communication channel to handle higher volume of radio traffic. Fire Dept will provide evacuation and crowd management training. Fire Dept will be fully staffed for busy weekend. Kyle adds that GVSA is pursuing renting programmable signage which can advise about speed limit or fire danger.

6) Community relations: Coffee with a Cop in fall, Other Opportunities?
Fire Dept held Safetypalooza in May, had about 75 people attend.

New business:

- 7) Letter from Emily Lewis RE speeding. Letter was forwarded to WPD, additional patrols on Alyeska Highway. Group discusses getting flashing speeding signs. Kyle will follow up with cost for this for additional consideration. 2nd step is getting approval from DOT to place such a sign in their Right of Way.
- 8) Park and Ride camping/dumping vehicles from Mike Opalka. Issue is that removal requires tagging and people move vehicles in order to avoid towing. Opalka suggests gating the parking area so that it is inaccessible since it's not being used as intended. Kyle will follow up with cost, etc so that this can be considered further.
- 9) Road striping/crosswalk from Michelle Weston. Sees people not ceding to pedestrians, painting crosswalks would help visibility of the crosswalks in general. Muni paint crew is scheduled for tomorrow (weather permitting); State already striped but has not painted cross walks (Alyeska Highway). Kyle will call DOT Girdwood shop tomorrow for an update.

These items will be added to grassroots concerns for future follow-up.

Other Business:

- 10) Review upcoming community events:

Forest Fair	July 1-3
Fungus Fair	Sept 2-4
Girdwood Health Fair	Oct 8

Briana Sullivan adds that there will be a Girdwood AK Run for Women Route. Route will be set up FRI June 10-Fri June 17. In person event scheduled for SAT the 11th, virtual event throughout the week.

11)Girdwood Grassroots concerns from prior meetings:
Request for No Parking signs for specific streets: Loveland, etc – will continue to work with traffic dept on this.

Holtan Hills Development proposal & possible impact on Public Safety – Town Hall meeting TUE June 14 at 6PM. Concerns about need for upgrade to Crow Creek Road and intersection with Alyeska Highway, safety concerns regarding vehicles during construction, and impact on small fire dept and police dept have not been addressed yet.

October Storm recovery reimbursement status – work completed this week will be added to reimbursement requests. Then it's up to the state to process and provide feedback and payment.

Girdwood Bear Aware Amendment to STRZ code and progress on defective cans – This item to be pulled from agenda. This effort will need to restart.

12)Roundtable comments from the PSAC board - None

13)Set next meeting date: July 4 2022 is canceled. Special meeting could be requested, otherwise next meeting will be August 1.

Public Safety Reports:

WPD Update (WPD Chief Andre Achee) – Acting Chief Corbett says WPD recently hired Officer Cory Smith, who has been an officer in Idaho and Alaska previously. WPD has been able to enforce a bit more due to a DUI enforcement grant from the State of Alaska – 20-30 hours additional, total.

GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston) – Chief Weston says State provided \$312,000 to Kenai Peninsula departments for extrication equipment. This is about \$20,000 per department. She has fundraised about \$400,000 for extrication tools in Girdwood. Busy Memorial Day weekend and summer call volume is increasing with visitor season. Enforcing burn ban as everything is so dry, this includes campsites up Crow Creek Road.

New board members Amanda Tuttle and Cindy Shake, new chair of Fire Board is Paula Bogdan.

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report – Amanda asks what info outside of public safety does the group want feedback on. Group focuses on Holtan Hills updates, follow up on existing on-going items that relate to Public Safety, any reports that come to GBOS regarding Public safety that they may not have heard.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn 8:10PM