

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

May 13, 2025

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.

7PM Call to order, Mike Opalka

Roll call: Attending are Mike Opalka, Deb Croghan, Tim Astle

Luke Niedringhaus is excused; Kellie Okonek is excused

Quorum confirmed

Agenda approval for May 13 meeting	TA/DC	Assent
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Minutes approval from Apr 15 2025 meeting	TA/DC	Assent
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Announcements/Introductions/Presentation:

Girdwood Parks Master Plan project is kicking off with steering committee meeting in June, community survey and stakeholder interviews. Project website is: www.girdwoodparksplan.com.

Business:

1) Public Safety Contract with Whittier

Vote regarding recommendation for Renewal of current contract for 2 years (2026 and 2027)

As discussed last month, the existing police services contract has negotiated rate for 2 year contract extension at \$856,487.52/year.

Motion:

PSAC moves to recommend the 2 year extension of the Police Services Contract as presented.

Motion by MO/2nd TA

Motion carries by Assent

Dispatch Services are a separate component of this contract. Dispatch services have moved several times throughout the contract period with WPD, with services improving with each change. Through RFP process, Whittier has recently awarded the dispatch contract to Valdez. The cost of this service is shared between Whittier and Girdwood. The increase is \$61,000/year. There is also need to acquire software, at a cost of \$7,000 (or \$3500/year). Total cost for both in Girdwood will be approximately \$65,000 per year.

Motion:

PSAC moves to approve the increase in cost for dispatch services and related software for the Whittier Police Services contract.

Motion by TA/2nd MO

Motion carries by Assent

Total cost to GVSA for renewal of contract and associated dispatch service is est \$922,000/year

2) Public Safety Contract after 2027

Review of options for next contract cycle (starting Jan 1 2028)

This project will begin in Spring/summer 2026. Goal is to be in contract negotiations by the end of 2026.

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

Whittier has been providing additional enforcement and visibility as discussed previously. No new items are brought forward.

4) Review upcoming community events (see meeting packet)

Preparations for Forest Fair are under way.

5) Other Community relations opportunities:

PSAC member ride along with WPD: Deb Croghan may be interested. Kyle offers to help in arranging if needed.
Outreach via community resources: Newspaper; Newsletters; Clinic; Other: No update
Attendance at Whittier town council: Likely at contract signing.
Future Coffee with Cops/Cones and Cops: Fall 2025. Tim Astle offers to help Deb coordinate.

6) Update on status of Areawide alcohol tax

Funds were secured for GFD increase in staffing in summer months. Whittier requests were not fulfilled as WPD is contractor and MOA cannot pay for capital items outside of the MOA. Municipal manager has suggested that if there are items that WPD needs and MOA can loan them, MOA would be willing to do this.

7) Roundtable comments from the PSAC board: None

8) Consider next meeting date: Aug 12, 2025 at 7PM is current tentative date.

If PSAC members are unavailable, contact Margaret and we will poll to find another date.

Public Safety Reports:

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

Kyle reports on behalf of Chief Achee: Whittier department is fully staffed, however one member is retiring this summer. Summer season has begun in Whittier with increase in cruise ship traffic.

GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston) – request written report

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report (Kellie Okonek)

Public Comment: Persons offering public comment must state their full name and address. Public Comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person and must be on subjects not listed on the agenda.

Adjourn 7:25PM