

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
September 8, 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.

7PM Call to order, Tommy O'Malley

Roll call: PSAC attending are Jason Porter, Tommy O'Malley, GBOS member Jennifer Wingard creates quorum.

Also attending are Andre Achee and Michelle Weston

Agenda approved for September 8 2021 meeting JP/TO 3-0

Minutes approval from August 2 2021 meeting JP/TO 3-0

Announcements/Introductions/Presentation:

Old Business:

1) Public Safety Contract

List of alternatives will be presented in the fall. This will include cost comparison for other small departments.

Options to be discussed are:

- Creating Girdwood Police Dept:
includes comparison of costs of similar small independent departments.
- Joining Anchorage Police Department:
discussion of joining Anchorage Police Service Area or contract possibility
- Whittier Contract
discussion with Whittier town council to establish if they are willing to renew contract and recontract for future years.

2) Mental Health Rapid Response Team Update

GBOS has passed a resolution regarding Domestic Violence and Briana Sullivan is working on public engagement/posters with resource information.

Alcohol tax of 5% generated over \$700,000 in its first month (Feb) and was on target for anticipated revenue generation of \$11-13M for the year to be used for training and response for mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, and domestic violence.

Start-up of the specific programs has begun and staffing has started. There is some confusion when Tommy contacts various departments about the response/distribution outside of the Anchorage Police Service Area, however tax is collected Areawide, so services must be provided in Girdwood, which is contributing to the revenue.

Chief Weston states that she has inquired and AFD has indicated that core resources should be expanding to Girdwood after about a year from startup.

Chief Achee states that officers attend 8 hour training through CIT Team and a 40 hour class is anticipated in November, which he plans to send an officer to.

PSAC should request that this topic is added to the next MOA/GBOS joint meeting, scheduled for October 25 2021.

3) Coffee with a Cop/Outreach opportunities

Tommy will discuss options with local restaurants to find a host for Coffee with a Cop sometime in November.

- 4) PSAC Organizational discussion – pending full board in attendance.

New business:

None

Other Business:

- 5) Review upcoming community events

Downhill Biking	THU-SUN thru Sept 12
Daylodge Parking Camping	Ongoing thru fall
Girdwood Tent Camping	ending Mid Sept
Alyeska Climbathon	Virtual event
Girdwood Trail Marathon	October 2
ASD Winter Break	Dec 16-Jan 3
New Years Eve	Dec 31

Jason Porter states that resort is evaluating options for events, no update at this time.

- 6) Girdwood Grassroots concerns from prior meetings:

Update on request to lower speed limit on Crow Creek Road – No update from AK DOT regarding traffic study of speeds on Crow Creek Road.

Update on Stop signs replacing Yield signs – No update however there is a new traffic engineer in place at MOA.

Girdwood Bear Aware bear activity – Bear activity is decreasing as expected for the season. No update on GBA's Secure Trash Regulation Zone proposed amendments nor on plan to replace defective trash cans distributed by Alaska Waste.

Domestic Violence information campaign – Briana Sullivan is working on poster and receiving permission to place them in public restrooms and other locations around town.

- 7) Roundtable comments from the PSAC board – None

- 8) Set next meeting date: MON October 4 at 7PM, in person, hybrid or fully on-line tba.

Public Safety Reports:

WPD Update (WPD Chief Andre Achee) – May – July stats received.

Chief Achee explains that there are two areas of the Critical Response Team, one that is focused on Fire/Paramedic contact & response and the other focused on police contact with additional training (see topic 2).

WPD staffing is one person low, WPD is looking for candidates with police experience who have already been to academy.

GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston) – 337 calls year to date. COVID-related calls are occurring. Public should be aware that ICU in Anchorage hospitals are full, critical patients are being sent to Lower 48 for treatment in locations less impacted by COVID. Handwash, wear masks, stay distant.

Opioid Crisis is also still on-going. Be aware that GFR has Narcan kits available for those who need them. EMT III class taking place now, Fire Fighter I class will be held in 2022. Recruiting for members in December. Matt Olson has retired after 24 years of service with GFR. Assembly will recognize him at their meeting on Sept 14. GBOS also provided a resolution of service.

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report (Jennifer Wingard) – GBOS has completed GVSA Budget cycle, only anticipated change is review of Consumer Price Index and possible adjustment to Police/Public safety budget at first quarter revisions, as agreed in contract.

Public Comment: Great news story this week regarding Jr. Mycologist Gabriel Wingard.

Adjourn 7:55PM