

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

August 27, 2024

Minutes Final

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 Tommy O'Malley

Roll call: Tyler Cresswell (TC), Tommy O'Malley (TO), Mike Opalka (MO), Luke Niedringhaus (LN)

Briana Sullivan (BS), GBOS

Quorum Confirmed

Agenda approval for Aug 27 2024 meeting BS/MO Assent

Announcements/Introductions/Presentation:

Introduction of PSAC members: new members are Tyler Cresswell and Luke Niedringhaus. Returning members are Tommy O'Malley and Mike Opalka.

Business:

1) PSAC Structure and goals:

PSAC has 4 voting members, GBOS member may vote to break tie and to help in achieving a quorum if needed. Meetings are shifting to Quarterly at a minimum. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the chair/co-chair. PSAC does operate under the Alaska Open Meetings Act. Meetings of more than 2 members, either at one time or sequentially to discuss PSAC business are not allowed. PSAC may call meetings at the discretion of the chair/co-chair.

Tommy O'Malley proposes a group of ideas for additional action by PSAC, which is included in the updated meeting packet. Group reviews existing website and contact information. Current website will remain the source of official information regarding PSAC. Publicity of PSAC and PSAC meetings and activities can be increased by many different means, including social media, flyers, etc.

Motion:

PSAC moves to change contact information on the website to personal email for PSAC members.

Motion by MO/2nd LN

Motion carries by Assent vote

Establish PSAC Chair/Co-chairs

Tyler Cresswell agrees to serve as Chair

Luke Niedringhaus agrees to serve as Co-chair

There are no objections to these assignments.

Public Safety contract

Current Police Service contract is available to be read on the PSAC website. This contract rate expires in Dec 2025.

After that the contract may be renewed for two more years at a higher rate.

Current rate is \$793,000/year; In 2026 and 2027 the rate will increase to \$856,000/year

PSAC will review policing options as renewals and new contract milestones approach.

Public Safety budget

GBOS is currently reviewing GVSA budget to recommend to the Assembly and Mayor for 2025. The current proposal includes the fixed cost of the police services contract and \$12,000 for other expenses, which is increased by \$6,000 over previous years to include tenant improvements in the Girdwood police substation. The other \$6,000 is used for a variety of items, including towing, signage, and creation of impound lots for special events.

PSAC Operating Rules

Operating rules are out of date. Update of operating rules and GBOS Rules & Procedures is an on-going project.

- 2) Community relations: Earlier it was discussed that PSAC needs to increase their visibility in the community and ensure that public knows how to be in touch with them. Some existing programs are:

Coffee with cops	SAT Nov 23 from 10A-12P at the Girdwood Grind
Ice Cream & cops	SAT Oct 19 from 10A-12P at the Ice Cream Shop
School events	TBA

 Outreach via community resources: Newspaper; Newsletters; Clinic; Other

These items will be added to the list of upcoming community events in the meeting packet.

3) Update on status of Areawide alcohol tax and WPD and GFR crisis intervention training
 Areawide alcohol tax has paid for the following activities in Girdwood:

- Crisis intervention unit assistance at the request of Girdwood Fire and Rescue
- Homeless camp abatement in summer 2024, including
 - training of WPD
 - assistance of social workers to perform outreach
 - park workers to clean up the camp location

4) Discuss ongoing Girdwood public safety concerns (see meeting packet)

Group reviewed the items that had previously been brought to PSAC.

Concerns brought forward at this meeting are:

- Request for WPD to walk through Girdwood Park to check on smoking/drinking on park premises. Chief Achee states that he will add walk-thru to WPD assignments.
- Avoid homeless camp issues this winter.

Staff addresses that this problem went unabated because the administration and legal departments were waiting for legal decision from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Now the administration has guidance on legal grounds and camping on MOA property can be handled. It is important to note that the land owner must request service from WPD, some land that may be occupied by homeless camps is not municipal land.

- Parking tickets

The ability for WPD to enforce municipal parking and ticket offenders was passed by voters a few years ago, however implementation has not yet come about as it requires ticketing system from EasyPark and a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the scope of authority. There is progress on this and it is likely that WPD will have ticket system in place soon. It is noted that enforcement by WPD is within the GVSA boundary only and only by WPD officers.

Payment of tickets will be possible on-line. Appeal of tickets will take place in Anchorage.

Parking ticket revenues will come back to GVSA however the will mainly cover the cost of the service.

Speeding ticket revenues go to the Court System.

5) Review upcoming community events (see meeting packet)

PSAC members are encouraged to contribute to the list of events that may be of interest to public safety service providers.

6) Roundtable comments from the PSAC board

- Camping on Crow Creek Road: Crow Creek Road is DOT right of way and most of it is not within the Girdwood Valley Service Area. Crow Creek neighborhood is part of District 15, which has funds for major crisis response only under APD responsibility. DOT must pursue abatement for the area outside of the GVSA.
- Drug use in Town Square area. Public is encouraged to call WPD on their non-emergency line.

7) Consider next meeting date: Quarterly – November 19 7PM

Public Safety Reports:

WPD Update (WPD Chief Andre Achee) – See report

GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston) – See report

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report - Briana Sullivan has left the meeting. No report

Public Comment:

Brice Wilbanks: Areawide Alcohol Tax estimated revenue is \$15-\$16M per year. He requests that PSAC pursue having Girdwood receive all funds generated by the tax within the GVSA.

Adjourn 8:30PM MO/LN