

# Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

## November 19, 2024

### 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, Tyler Cresswell,

Roll call: Attending are Tyler Cresswell (TC), Luke Niedringhaus (LN), Tommy O'Malley (TO)

Mike Opalka is Absent

Quorum confirmed

Welcome new GBOS Member Kellie Okonek, Police, Roads and Utilities Chair

Agenda approval for November 19 2024 meeting	TO/LN	Assent
Minutes approval from Aug 27 2024 meeting	LN/TO	Assent

#### **Announcements/Introductions/Presentation: None**

#### **Business:**

- 1) PSAC Structure  
Review Public Safety budget. 2025 budget includes funds for tenant improvements at the Police Substation which will improve safety in the station as well as improve services available there, such as breathalyzer tests.  
PSAC Operating Rules: GBOS is reviewing their Rules and Procedures and PSAC has evolved significantly since the last review of both GBOS and PSAC structure documents. Members are encouraged to review the Operating Rules and consider recommendations they may have for changes.
- 2) Discuss any new and ongoing Girdwood public safety concerns (see meeting packet)  
RE: DOT Concerns – Staff will work on getting approval to re-paint stencils on the Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety corridor (bike path). These were previously approved by DOT but the paint has worn off and paint/project would be completed with local service area funds.

Airport Property trespass – This problem is acute during Forest Fair and New Years with informal parties occurring on Airport Property. Airport property is managed by DOT/State of Alaska. Discussion within the DOT has been to seek funding for a gate at the edge of airport land just past the last residence, however funds have not been secured or this yet.

Illegal Parking – Girdwood voted to change code to allow WPD to enforce municipal parking laws. The process to initiate ticketing through the MOA system is nearly complete with signing of the agreement by municipal manager and Whittier. Last step is acquisition of the ticketing equipment and training. WPD will be able to issue parking tickets starting early in 2025.

Camping on Crow Creek Road – Enforcement for issues involving Crow Creek Road past the School Bus Turnaround are the responsibility of Anchorage Police Dept as Crow Creek Rd is not within the Girdwood Valley Service Area. There is mutual aid assistance available between police departments if needed.

Request for funding for public outreach events in 2026 budget (ice cream): GVSA cannot spend funds on food. These funds would need to be secured from non-government sources.

Training for WPD re: weakness in investigation. Police chief encourages phone call to discuss the specific case outside of public meeting.

- 3) Request for PSAC Support for GBOS Resolution of Support to lower speed limit and add traffic calming to Alyeska Highway (Patty Wilbanks)  
Item was presented at Land Use Committee at their November 2024 meeting and has been an ongoing topic within the community for many years.

Additional information reported since prior efforts are:

Moose Pass reportedly recently lowered the speed limit of the Seward Highway.

Traffic study on Alyeska Highway reportedly shows that many drivers are speeding by 10-15MPH

Additional traffic due to development at Alyeska Resort, Holtan Hills and new construction along the road  
Heavy truck traffic and noise from brakes

Additional driveways to access new development along the road

poor design of swoops, which use the shoulder of the road to achieve required pedestrian lane width  
(design was changed after Alyeska Highway project).

Suggested solutions are:

More enforcement of speed limit on Alyeska Highway – WPD agrees to additional enforcement

Request of DOT for flashing radar You are Speeding signs (as in Hope) as traffic calming.

Request of DOT to lower the 45 MPH speed limit to 30 for the length of Alyeska Highway.

Motion:

PSAC moves to recommend GBOS write a Resolution of Support to request lowering the speed limit on Alyeska Highway and to add traffic calming measures.

Motion by TO, 2<sup>nd</sup> LN

Motion carries 3-0

- 4) Review upcoming community events (see meeting packet)
- 5) Other Community relations opportunities:  
Cones and Cops – see meeting packet for info on most recent event  
Coffee with a Cop – this weekend, PSAC members plan to attend.  
PSAC member ride along with WPD: WPD will send form for PSAC members to complete and they will schedule ride-along opportunities.  
Whittier Community Council meetings – TO plans to attend in November. He recommends that PSAC members attend intermittently to encourage inter-community exchange and awareness.
- 6) Update on status of Areawide alcohol tax (Kyle Kelley)  
In 1Q budget revisions Office of Management and Budget will request funding is added for Fire and Police training and equipment. This is specifically related to GVSA needs from mental health, addiction etc as intended in the alcohol tax ordinance.
- 7) Roundtable comments from the PSAC board  
Tommy O'Malley retiring from PSAC board Dec 20, recruitment for GBOS Appointment to seat AS PSAC meets quarterly, recruitment will be recommended following reporting of this to GBOS at their meeting Nov 25. Recruitment will follow guidelines for Seat D, term ending Spring 2026. Applications will be reviewed by GBOS with appointment anticipated prior to the PSAC Quarterly meeting, currently expected for Feb 2025.
- 8) Consider next meeting date (Quarterly – February 11, 2025 at 7PM)

#### **Public Safety Reports:**

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

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 8:20PM**