

**Municipality
of
Anchorage**



*P.O. Box 390
Girdwood, Alaska 99587
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>*

David Bronson, Mayor

*GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Mike Edgington and Briana Sullivan, Co-Chairs
Jennifer Wingard, Amanda Sassi, Guy Wade*

**Resolution 2022-20
Of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR AREAWIDE BOND PROPOSAL FOR CEMETERIES IN ANCHORAGE**

Whereas, in 2015 voters in Girdwood voters passed an ordinance allowing the Girdwood Board of Supervisors (GBOS) powers to tax property owners to establish and maintain a cemetery in Girdwood by an unprecedented 68.7% in favor; and,

Whereas, the GBOS established a committee, The Girdwood Cemetery Committee, which pursued the goal of establishing a cemetery whose meetings are open to the public and which reports regularly to the GBOS; and,

Whereas, public land was chosen from several offered sites from the Municipality of Anchorage's Heritage Land Bank after extensive public process; and,

Whereas, the GBOS expended public funds for the environmental study which proved the suitability of the chosen site; and,

Whereas, communication and consultation has been maintained with the Director of the Anchorage Memorial Park and the Municipality's Memorial Park Advisory Board since 2002; and,

Whereas, a design and construction cost estimate was created for a multi-phase development plan for the establishment of the Cemetery in 2019; and,

Whereas, the Anchorage Daily News reported in 2020 that the Anchorage Memorial Park had space for public burials for five more years; and,

Whereas, the Girdwood Cemetery Committee has reached out with community councils in Chugiak and Eagle River who expressed their wishes to establish a cemetery in the northern part of the Municipality of Anchorage, has shared information, participated in their public process, and has helped coordinate efforts toward that goal; and,

Whereas, the Girdwood Cemetery Committee has also coordinated efforts with the Municipality's Memorial Park Advisory Board to help promote needed improvements for the Anchorage Memorial Park; and

Whereas, through the coordinated efforts of the Girdwood Cemetery Committee, the Eagle River and Chugiak Community Councils, and the Municipality's Memorial Park Advisory Board, a bond proposal is being developed to fund the establishment of a cemetery in Girdwood at an estimated cost of \$5M, a cemetery in Eagle River and for renovations and improvements at the Anchorage Memorial Park;

THEREFORE, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors requests the Municipality of Anchorage place an areawide bond for those projects on the Spring 2023 Municipality of Anchorage Areawide Ballot.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a vote of 5 to 0 this 17th day of October 2022.



Briana Sullivan
GBOS Parks and Recreation and Cemetery Chair

Oct 17, 2022

Date



Attest

GCI Webmail**mbutler@gci.net**

North Star CC Mtg

From : B Sullivan <bsullivan.gbos@gmail.com>

Sun, Nov 06, 2022 06:52 AM

Subject : North Star CC Mtg

📎 1 attachment

To : mattj@alaskan.com, mbutler@gci.net

Attn: Matt Johnson, President

Please see the recent Cemetery Resolution from the Girdwood Board of Supervisors (GBOS). The Cemetery Committee would ask for the North Star Community Council's support and sharing awareness.

The Anchorage Assembly Members are in support of this concept and hearing the support from Community Councils is further beneficial.

Renovations to the Anchorage Memorial Park, and Phase I of Eagle River /Chugiak Cemetery and Girdwood Cemetery will alleviate pressure on the Anchorage Memorial Park's limited remaining space for public burials. Cemeteries are basic infrastructure and thus a service provided by the MOA. It has been since 1915 that the Anchorage Memorial Park was established under a Federal Executive Order; planning into the future, for centuries, is critical. This would be an areawide bond for the MOA in April 2023 as a separate Parks & Recreation bond. This has been years in the making and Girdwood was anticipating Eagle River's plan in order to be on the same page in introducing our projects, together. The cost is an estimate, albeit currently outdated at \$10MIL for the 3 Cemeteries. Since Girdwood's estimate was \$4MIL in 2019, we wrote \$5MIL as a placeholder in this resolution, in case \$4MIL is inaccurate with the myriad changes that have occurred over the last four years. Anchorage Memorial was between \$2-3MIL in their 2017 study, and Eagle River's estimate was \$3MIL in 2021. Cemeteries take years to be implemented - both Girdwood and Eagle River have Phased approaches with decades between each phase. The monies would be spread out over many years and the legal language for the bond will be written in the weeks ahead.

I am happy to provide further links for your meeting Wednesday night.

Thanks so much for all your volunteerism and making our communities a better place to live and play!

Respectfully,
Briana Sullivan
Co-Chair, GBOS
Parks & Recreation, Cemetery Supervisor

 **2022-20 Girdwood Cemetery bonding 2023.pdf**
191 KB
