



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF MEASURING UP SELECT COMMITTEE
OF COUNCIL (MUSCC)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 03, 2021, STARTING AT 9:05 A.M.

Remote Meeting
Held via Zoom

PRESENT
Accommodation Sector, Doug Andrews
Member at Large, Olivia Rey
Member at Large, Sue Lawther
Tourism Whistler, Meredith Klau
Vail Resorts, Sarah McCullough
Whistler Adaptive Sports Program, Chelsey Walker
Whistler Community Services Society, Jackie Dickinson
Whistler Mature Action Community, Dave Ashton
Councillor, RMOW, Jen Ford
Manager Planning and MUSCC Secretary, RMOW, Courtney Beaubien
MUSCC Recording Secretary, RMOW, Karen Olineck
Manager Resort Parks Planning, RMOW, Martin Pardoe
Parks and Trails Supervisor, RMOW, Lorne Russell
Resort Parks Planner, RMOW, Madoc Hill
Parks Planning Technician, RMOW, Connor Eccles

REGRETS
Tourism Whistler, Mary Ann Collishaw
Vancouver Coastal Health, Dan Glover
Whistler Chamber of Commerce, Anne MacKenzie
Whistler Community Services Society, Kerry Hannah
Measuring Up Coordinator, RMOW, Sarah Tipler

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Sue Lawther
Seconded by Doug Andrews

That MUSCC adopt the MUSCC agenda of March 03, 2021.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Dave Ashton
Seconded by Doug Andrews

That MUSCC adopt the MUSCC minutes of December 04, 2019.

CARRIED

NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

Moved by Dave Ashton
Seconded by Doug Andrews

That MUSCC nominate Sue Lawther as Chair and Chelsey Walker as Co-Chair.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINISTERIAL ORDER M192

Moved by Sarah McCullough
Seconded by Chelsey Walker

That MUSCC adopt Ministerial Order M192 on March 03, 2021.

CARRIED

COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillor Ford provided Council updates. The RMOW is happy to work with the Health & Social Development Committee, which is a subcommittee of UBCM. Some of the work will have significant policy implications for the Province as it relates to active transportation and how that can be implemented in communities to encourage accessible walking and biking infrastructure.

It has been a very busy year, but very rewarding to work with many social services programs throughout the Sea to Sky corridor.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Planning Update

Courtney Beaubien commented on the following:

1. In January 2020, Council endorsed the amendments to the MUSCC Terms of Reference. Members' terms are now two years instead of one year and MUSCC will meet twice a year with special meetings as required.
2. Staff returned to Council in February 2020 for endorsement of the proposed work plan, project team and timeline for creating a comprehensive Accessibility Policy for the RMOW.
3. In 2020, upgrades to the pedestrian experience from the day lots were identified. These included adding edge protection, path widening and the addition of benches.
4. In 2020, staff took a comprehensive look at the accessibility webpages on the RMOW website. Staff reorganized the material on the pages to

- provide more benefit to residents and guests. The public can also link to key sources of information, like the Emergency Preparedness webpage.
5. Regarding parks accessibility benefits from the \$10,000 annual budget, in 2020 there was a purchase of an ADA compliant canoe and kayak launch system for the Alta Lake Heritage Park. The installation of this will occur in 2021. The 2021 objectives include a wheelchair safety stop along the edge of the dock and an accessible fishing railing on the fishing dock at the Alta Lake Heritage Park.
 6. The RMOW created a commitment to accessibility and inclusion as part of the RMOW's preparation for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The development of the RMOW's Accessibility Policy is connected to this general commitment.
 7. The Accessibility Policy will provide ongoing efforts through a comprehensive policy framework and the intention of the framework is to provide clarity, consistency and direction.
 8. In February 2020, Council gave staff permission to proceed with the development of this Accessibility Policy and at the meeting, Council also endorsed parameters around the scope of what concepts the policy will consider. Specifically, the policy development will consider: universal design; the *BC Building Code*; the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) program; and the *Accessible Canada Act*.
 9. The *Accessible Canada Act* will provide the framework for the final RMOW Accessibility Policy. The act has seven areas for consideration: service design and delivery; built environment; employment; information and communications technologies; communications; transportation; and procurement. The RMOW senior management team has appointed subject-matter experts to each of the seven areas.
 10. Staff will engage MUSCC as this policy is developed. This project is intended to go back to Council in May 2021 with inventories of RMOW bylaws and additional documents from the RMOW and other governments. The Council report will also include a proposed table of contents for the Accessibility Policy.
 11. After the Council meeting, feedback will be sought from MUSCC, other stakeholders and the public. This will result in a draft of the Accessibility Policy, which will also be circulated to MUSCC, other stakeholders and the public for feedback. The final draft will then go to Council for final consideration. The intention is for this policy to take effect in fall 2021.
 12. The Planning Department has been working with other departments with regard to adding a question about accessibility to the Community Life Survey. The question that will be added to the online version will likely relate to needs for accessible housing.
 13. Sarah Tipler was selected to be a member of the RHFAC Municipal Task Force. The purpose of this task force is for municipal representatives to advise the Rick Hansen Foundation on key messaging and policy integration to promote RHFAC ratings across municipalities.

1. The key goals and objectives of the proposed Fire & Ice GeoPark include improvement of public access to each of the geosites and the development of infrastructure that is accessible at these sites.
2. There are four areas of focus: the lava escarpment at Cheakamus Crossing; the volcanic crater at Loggers Lake; the salt eskers at Cal-Cheak North; and the lava glacier bedrock contact gorge at Cal-Cheak South.
3. Long-term plans for this GeoPark envision a 2023 UNESCO Global GeoPark application.
4. The GeoPark is a single, unified geographic area, with sites and landscapes of geological significance. The sites are managed with the commitment to conservation, education and sustainability, and promoted through sustainable access such as hiking, biking and paddling.
5. GeoParks are not only about geology, but they are the foundation for other aspects of our surroundings like biodiversity and cultural history.
6. GeoParks also raise awareness of the importance of our geological heritage and help create a sense of place and pride in residents and visitors.
7. The conceptual renderings of one site (picture shown) include a viewing tower, accessible pathways, and a relatively level field area for viewing and enjoyment.
8. Staff will come back to MUSCC for feedback as we move toward more detailed design of each of the geosites to discuss accessible opportunities for each site.
9. Some of the infrastructure features being considered are: hard, relatively smooth surfaces; cantilevered viewing decks; reflective mirror viewing towers; and periscope opportunities that can be considered for those not able to climb stairs.
10. We will be providing a free smart phone app that will allow immersion, interpretation, education, and augmented reality that will provide audio and visual cues to visitors. This can be used at the site or in the home.
11. Some examples of the furnishings and services being considered for one site (picture shown) are: accessible interpretive panels; and relatively smooth paving stone surfaces on pathways and elevated boardwalks.

Parks Planning
Update

Martin Pardoe commented on the following:

1. The RMOW has been developing two washroom facilities. One is located at the PassivHaus, which opened on December 24, 2020. The second is located at Whistler Olympic Plaza, which is targeted to open in spring 2021. The washroom facility at Gateway Loop is expected to commence construction in spring 2021.
2. The RMOW completed a grant application for a washroom facility in Lot 3 near the skate park. The grant application was not successful.
3. With the PassivHaus and Whistler Olympic Plaza washrooms, there was a lot of discussion about achieving a higher level of accessibility standard. All items that came out of discussions were addressed, with the exception of five items.

4. Two items that could not be addressed were: a request for the external doors to have permanent demarcations to indicate where the doors open; and a request to adjust the counter and mirror details.
5. The third item is the discussion about the width of the accessible washroom stalls. We reduced the stalls to the 1500 mm width as per the *BC Building Code*, but we may consider an increase to 1600 mm. The decision on the width of the stalls has not been finalized.
6. The fourth item is the discussion about the sink heights. We are working within the *BC Building Code* and adjusting the sink heights would not allow us to achieve other height requirements that are part of the code.
7. The fifth item is the discussion about the Gateway Loop washroom and adjusting the floor elevation to make the building more accessible from multiple directions. A request was also made from the contractor to consider raising the finished floor elevation six inches to a foot, but we were concerned that one part of the building would be accessible, while the other would not.
8. The RMOW has drafted an E-Mobility Device Policy and the primary target of this policy is to provide guidance on e-bike use on RMOW trails. We worked closely with WORCA and Recreation Sites and Trails BC.
9. Council supported the draft policy in July 2019. At that time, we committed to monitor the policy, make adjustments and return to Council in 2020 to formally adopt the policy. This process has been deferred because of COVID-19. We are now proposing to defer this to 2022 as a result of workload and Parks' preparation for an anticipated busy summer.
10. The formalization of the E-Mobility Device Policy requires amendments to the Park Use Bylaw to add enforcement capabilities. Considerable work is required for this portion.
11. Overall, there has not been significant issues with e-bikes on our trails. A monitoring study over the last two summers was conducted to determine the type of Valley Trail user. We have observed that e-bike use on the Valley Trail accounts for only 10 per cent of trail use and 65 per cent of users are on regular bikes.
12. We have had several e-bike users in the alpine, which is not permitted at this time. Our Alpine Rangers Program has been effective in relaying the message that e-bikes are not permitted in these areas. We have been able to accommodate special requests for individuals to use e-bikes in the alpine; a formalized policy is needed to address these special requests.
13. We will be considering adaptive mountain bikes through an upcoming initiative entitled the Recreation Trails Strategy. That project will launch soon and a survey will go out to the public in the next few weeks.

COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

Chelsea Walker provided an update for **Whistler Adaptive Sports**:

They were able to open summer 2020 in a Phase 3 format. They limited the type of sports, but were able to have a successful summer due to demand. In fall 2020, they moved back to Phase 1. In January 2021, they moved to Phase 2 and with that, were able to offer ski and snowboard, alpine race format as well as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. They have some limited in-person indoor programming mainly focused on children and youth. They hope to return to a Phase 3 format this year and expect a busy summer.

They also expanded their team to include two full-time coaches and a volunteer training program manager.

Jackie Dickinson provided an update for the **Whistler Community Services Society**:

The organization had a huge demand for services, specifically since November 2020. They expanded their team to respond to demand. They also maintain in-person support for outreach in the community. The main demographic using the services are individuals in their late 30s and 40s, and people who have lived here for over 10 years, including those with dependents.

Since November 2020, they responded quickly to the changing needs of the community and developed a delivery system for the food bank. For perspective, so far this year they served over 800 people from the food bank, which is almost as many as they experienced in the first lockdown last spring. The majority of people served food were in isolation due to COVID-19 positivity.

They have also expanded the hygiene program so that people in isolation had no reason to leave their homes. They were handing out 50 hygiene kits per week last November and by January 2021, they were handing out 300 per week.

In mid-January, they developed a temporary isolation program in partnership with the RMOW, Vancouver Coastal Health and BC Housing. They aim to keep this program going.

Sarah McCullough provided an update for **Vail Resorts**:

They maintained their accessibility buddy ticket and they have seen an uptake on usage of that ticket. Their team developed a new piece of equipment to get sit skis on and off the Blackcomb Gondola.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by Sue Lawther
Seconded by Dave Ashton

That the MUSCC meeting of Wednesday, March 03, 2021 be terminated at
10:15 a.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR, Sue Lawther

SECRETARY, Courtney Beaubien