



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF LIQUOR LICENCE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014, STARTING AT 8:45 A.M.
In the Flute Room at Whistler Municipal Hall
4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4**

PRESENT:

Food & Beverage Sector Representative – Nightclubs, Terry Clark
Food & Beverage Sector Representative – Pubs/Bars, Chair, Mike Varrin
Food & Beverage Sector Representative – Restaurants, Vice-Chair, Brenton
Smith
Public Safety Representative, RCMP, Rob Knapton
Councillor, John Grills
Whistler Fire Rescue Service (WFRS) Representative, Chris Nelson
RMOW Staff Representative, Secretary, Frank Savage
Recording Secretary, Shannon Perry

REGRETS:

Accommodation Sector Representative, Colin Hedderson
Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) Inspector, Holly Glenn
Whistler Community Services Society Representative, Jackie Dickinson

GUEST:

Mike Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

Mike Varrin called meeting to order 8:48 am

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Rob Knapton
Seconded by Terry Clark

That Liquor Licence Advisory Committee adopt the Liquor Licence Advisory
Committee agenda of September 4, 2014.

CARRIED.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Terry Clark
Seconded by Rob Knapton

That Liquor Licence Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Liquor Licence
Advisory Committee minutes of July 3 2014.

CARRIED.

COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillor Grills provided an update on relevant topics from Council:

- Council has approved advanced RMI funding for 2015 Festivals, Events and Animation.
- Council supported Fairmount Chateau Golf Course Clubhouse patio capacity increase from 30 to 87 persons
- GLC development permit was not approved. Council concerned that the height of the roof may affect neighboring buildings. More detail on seasonal sun exposure is required.
- Council approved GranFondo catering liquor licence capacity for more than 500 people.
- UBCM Annual Convention delegates to arrive Sunday, September 21
- Concerns on the availability of employees and housing inventory for the coming season as it has been very difficult this summer and has been predicted to be worse this winter.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Implementation
Provincial Liquor Policy
Recommendations

Frank Savage led a discussion on the implementation phase of the recommendations from the 2013 BC Liquor Policy Review. Approximately 20% of the 73 provincial government recommendations have been fully implemented, and for several others there is opportunity for local government input through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Liquor Policy Working Group. Municipal staff are seeking:

- (1) LLAC member experience to date with liquor policy changes currently in effect, and
- (2) Comments from LLAC members on policy changes for which the LCLB will be requesting input from local government

1. Local experience of liquor policy changes already implemented

a. Liquor Service without Food in Food-Primary Establishments (LPR #36) – policy clarification issued June 20, 2014

1. Pub sector – no impacts observed by pub sector members to date, but this could change during the winter season. We should review the situation in January.
2. Nightclub sector – no impacts on sector as of yet, but should review in future.
3. Restaurant sector – this sector is impacted the most. One impact noticed is that they are able to say “yes” to guests a lot more often. The focus is still the need to remain on being a restaurant and not turn into a bar.
4. RCMP – Have not noticed any difference in the Village atmosphere.
5. Conclusion – the LLAC should review in spring 2015 to see if any impacts have been observed.

b. Happy hour/minimum drink pricing (Policy Directive 14-15)

1. Pub sector – no real changes observed; suggest reviewing in spring, also. Received comment that with the flexibility of happy hour to give special pricing to teams, groups etc. was seen as a huge benefit
2. Restaurant sector – flexibility of the new policy has been great.
3. Nightclub sector – nightclubs have not offered happy hour drink specials.
4. Council representative – members at the Restaurants Association meeting commented that happy hour had increased their food sales, which led to the need to put on more staff.
5. Action – the wording in the standard Good Neighbour Agreement (“We will not participate in deep discounting of drink prices or predatory business practices.”) should be reviewed.

c. Minors in LP establishments to 10 pm (Policy Directive 14-13)

1. Pub sector – there has been increased business later on in the evening for families in the pubs; overall the impact has been positive. Some pubs will retain minors until 8 pm, particularly in the winter when there is a different clientele than in summer.
2. Nightclub sector – nightclubs currently do not have an endorsement for minors and will not likely apply.

d. Retail liquor sales at farmers markets and tasting-based F&B festivals (Policy Directives 14-11 and 14-12)

1. Pub sector – huge win, blends in well with offerings of the farmers markets. No negative impacts on nearby Merlin’s. Liquor vendors are doing a very responsible job
2. Restaurant sector – flexibility of the new policy has been great.
3. Resort Experience representative – positive comments received from Blackcomb Liquor Store regarding farmers market liquor sales.

2. Local government input to liquor policy changes yet to come

a. Endorsement for FP transition to LP after a certain hour (LPR #37)

1. Restaurant sector – if a proposal fits with the resort image (e.g. a restaurant transitioning to a wine bar at night), then it should be considered. An application would need to offer something that Whistler doesn’t have.
2. Nightclub sector – a restaurant might not have the trained security staff to operate as a liquor primary, especially at dispersal time.
3. RCMP - concerns of people leaving at a later hour and how RCMP will manage this.
4. Pub sector – suggested that the existing temporary change process is adequate for a restaurant to host a special event.

5. Council representative – might be a good idea to have the policy require that the kitchen stay open while liquor is being served.

b. Licensing of businesses such as spas and art galleries (LPR #38)

1. RCMP representative – some Special Occasion Licence applications are for events at galleries.
2. Pub sector – should apply for specific licensed events.

c. Special Occasion Licence On-line Project (LPR #43)

1. Resort Experience representative – SOLs will go on line in spring 2015. Approval processes will change; more details will be available in future.

3. Resolution from City of Victoria for consideration at September 22-26, 2014 Union of BC Municipalities Convention (in Whistler)

1. Resort Experience representative – City of Victoria is sponsoring a resolution asking that the provincial government allocate a portion liquor taxes to fund services that may be impacted by increased availability of alcohol resulting from the changes in provincial liquor policy.

Proposed LCLB
Enforcement Penalty
Schedule

Frank presented a new penalty schedule proposal from LCLB and suggested that members have an opportunity to provide comments to the LCLB before September 30, 2014. Frank to be copied on emails to the LCLB.

Food Premises
Regulations

Frank presented a staff report on the BC Food Premises Regulation requirement that, "Plans and specifications for the construction and alteration of a food premises establishment be approved by a health officer." We will work the requirement into the municipal liquor licence application process. Applicants will be advised that they may be required to provide evidence that plans and specifications have been approved. Council Policy G-17 *Municipal Liquor Licensing Policy* may require amendments, and such changes will be brought to the LLAC for review.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next meeting

The next LLAC meeting will be either September 25 or October 16, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mike Varrin

That Liquor License Advisory Committee adjourn the September 4, 2014 committee meeting at 10:18 a.m.

CARRIED

ACTING CHAIR / SECRETARY: Frank Savage