



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M

Remote Meeting

Held via Zoom – Link available at [www.whistler.ca/committees](http://www.whistler.ca/committees)

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (4)
Chair, Tara Schaufele, RMOW Environmental Stewardship	4
Co-Chair, Claire Ruddy, Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative/AWARE	4
Simon Gravel, BC Conservation Officer Service	3
Arthur DeJong, Council	5
Juan Pineda, RMOW Bylaw Services	4
Member at Large, Ivana Minic-Lukac	5
Member at Large, Margot Webster	5
Member at Large, Adrien Baudouin	5
Recording Secretary, Jagoda Kozikowska	4
REGRETS	
Sgt. Rob Knapton, RCMP	5
Denise Imbeau, Carney's Waste Systems	5

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A.DeJong

Seconded by C.Ruddy

**That** the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

CARRIED

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Pineda

Seconded by A. DeJong

**That** the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Minutes of August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

CARRIED

## **PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

No presentations were scheduled for this meeting.

### **Bear Related Updates**

An update by J. Pineda was provided on behalf of RMOW Bylaw Services

- Bylaw Services busy due to increase number of people in Parks
- Attended Riverside Campground and gave a ticket for garbage being left by visitors outside of the bin.
- No other fines were given out as a result of bear attractants, only a warning ticket for bear cache being left opened at the campground.
- Will continue to provide bylaw officers to attend Riverside Campground for routine patrols.

An update by A DeJong, was given regarding bear activity at WB:

- Still very low bear activity/movement and no incidents on WB
- Berry crops ended up good in the alpine areas

An update by J.Kozikowska, was given on RMOW's bear smart program

- Attended Riverside campground for public education, found less attractants.
- Minimal bear reports throughout the valley
- Grizzly bear sightings prompted closure of alpine trails on Mount Sproatt and Rainbow. The Grizzly Bear Conflict Management plan needs to be reviewed

An update by S. Gravel was given on behalf of CO Service

- The COS has been extremely stretched for staff and funding
- Unprecedented year for people recreating and high demand from various organizations for CO to have a presence.
- Riverside Campground is the primary issue for Whistler right now and it is privately owned so harder to enforce or shut down if needed
- Cat lake had to be shut down due to ongoing bears accessing attractants and a bear had to be destroyed as a result
- Wildlife Safety Officer attended Riverside Campground as well
- New management at campground should be held accountable- there needs to be an attractant management plan in place
- A meeting between COS, bylaw and ES should be held to discuss the issues and they can be resolved.
- The Wildlife Act and Municipal Bylaws fall under the attractants at the campground- needs a tougher policy
- A non- compliance letter will be issued
- Electric fencing of the perimeter should be considered as last Resort Municipality of Whistler
- No traps have been set due to wrong messaging as the ownership of the problem should be held by Riverside Campground

A discussion was held regarding the update and A. Dejong question why there is such a shortage of funding for the COS. Too much promoting of tourism it no funding into managing the tourists. The SLRD should pay for an additional officer. C. Ruddy mentioned that the Riverside Campground should have a Management of Attractants Guidelines.

- Lost Lake has also seen some bear activity. Bears have been charged by dogs and are starting to get overwhelmed.
- Ongoing BBQ issues- Get more info regarding BBQ covers and if they are indeed effective
- Critter Getter Deterrent for BBQ's- sets off an alarm when triggered
- Auto water sprinklers may work as well
- Discussed Wedge "Campground" bear destroyed due to feeling. The site has gotten out of control with campers. A bear ended up getting fed and accessing food. Charged the CO who decided to destroy the bear out of public safety concern.

A discussion was held regarding vocabulary and definitions for when a bear is killed. It was determined that the term "destroyed" still may work the best as long the background story is told to people.

It was brought up that there should be a better way to share information with the group.

- Sasha, the wildlife safety officer will start to join the meetings
- Better communication between COS will occur
- COS asks also that the RMOW share information with them as well.

An update by I. Minic-Lukac was given on behalf of the WWPG

- Will continue to provide assistance where possible with door to door
- Would be good to keep track of door to door education and areas where it has occurred.
- Asked about the weekly updates from COS, if they will only be given to the RMOW or the group.

#### Action Items

- Meet at Riverside Campground with Management, Bylaw and COS
- Create a spread sheet with area of door to door education
- Look into an information sharing platform for the group

**OTHER BUSINESS**

*There were no items of Other Business.*

**MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by Arthur

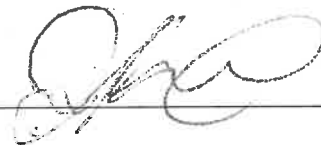
Seconded by Claire

**That** the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of September 08<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be terminated at 10:25 a.m.

CARRIED



Chair, Tara Schaufele



Recording Secretary, Jagoda  
Kozikowska