



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JULY 12, 2017, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

In the Decker Room

RMOW Public Works Yard

PRESENT:

Co- Chair, RMOW, H. Beresford
Co-Chair, Get Bear Smart, S. Dolson
AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy
Conservation Officer Service, B. Mueller
Member at Large, N. Dudley
Whistler Blackcomb, A. DeJong
RCMP, R. Knapton
RMOW, T. Schaufele
Recording Secretary, A. Paris

PUBLIC:

Whistler Wildlife Protection Group, I. Minic-Lukac

REGRETS:

Carney's Waste Systems, P. Kindree
Conservation Officer Service, S. Gravel
Wind River Bear Institute, L. Homstol
RMOW Bylaw Services, T. Lunn
RMOW Council, S. Maxwell

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Dolson
Seconded by R. Knapton

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee agenda of July 12, 2017.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Dolson
Seconded by T. Schaufele

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee minutes of June 14, 2017.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Conservation Officer Services

A presentation by B. Mueller was given regarding Conservation Officer Services activities and a discussion was held.

- There were 39 calls in June and 9 in July
- Training for Whistler and Squamish RCMP complete. Hoping to add Pemberton and First Nations policing next year. Practiced aspects of relocating bears, and using bear bangers, bean bags and screamers
- Added 2 paintball guns to the aversive tool kit
- 2 bears relocated in June, one from Brio and from day lot
- Bear caused damage to Nordic garbage shed cedar roof
- Young male bears still the most prevalent issue with calls because of mating season

RCMP

A presentation by R. Knapton was given regarding RCMP activities and a discussion was held.

- Relatively quiet, 2 calls since beginning of June
- Bear training with COS complete

Whistler Blackcomb

A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding Whistler Blackcomb activities and a discussion was held.

- Bears are finally moving up the hill with green-up
- Very persistent bear around Roundhouse last week. A. DeJong advised staff to call COS
- Berry production is low. Very little flowering after snow pack melted
- Lower part of mountain is heavily signed for bear information, higher up there aren't signs
- WB wants to create an interactive interpretive walk for children about bears

ACTION: A. DeJong, Whistler Blackcomb will put a bear sign at the entrance of Heart Burn ascent trail.

Coast to Cascades, Grizzly Bear Initiative

A presentation by C. Ruddy was given regarding Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative activities and a discussion was held.

- Final steps of sign development. Student is working on interpretive signage in the Callaghan and throughout the Sea to Sky
- Coast to Cascades wrote a letter for circulation to WBAC and FWAC on Sproatt and Rainbow Mountain alpine trails. If camp sites are developed, the infrastructure needs to be bear secure. It is important to have input from other sources with bear-proofing experience
- In addition, there was discussion about the future of Jane Lakes area at the Community Forest open house
- The bigger issue is how decisions are made on land use and access. There is a gap between the Trail Planning Working Group (TPWG) and Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) planning and other

aspects such as the need to incorporate bear management and other environmental concerns.

- Important for other stakeholders to have input in early planning stages
- Alpine trail campsite plans need to be reviewed for site placement, bear hazard assessment including bear use and habitat

Moved by S. Dolson
Seconded by T. Schaufele

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee recommends that if alpine camping is developed :

- i. Campsites follow best management practices and are reviewed/approved by a bear conflict or environmental specialist
- ii. WBAC member should participate in TPWG meetings
- iii. WBAC should have opportunity to review TPWG trail plans before plans are submitted for provincial review

CARRIED

Whistler Wildlife
Protection Group

A presentation by I. Minic-Lukac was given regarding Whistler Wildlife Protection Group (WWPG) activities and a discussion was held.

- A meeting was held on Sunday. Focused on recruiting volunteers throughout Whistler, hoping to link them with the Bear Smart Program Assistant (BSPA)
- Neighbourhood watch active and reporting to Bylaw and Conservation Officer Service (COS)
- WWPG is developing a locals card, online questionnaire and providing a card with discounts and incentives
- Discussion was held regarding the opportunity for creating a “Whistler culture/locals” training program. The idea would be to combine many aspects of stewardship, including environment, wildlife, transit and fire safety

ACTION: Subcommittee (C. Ruddy, T. Schaufele, A. DeJong) meet before next meeting and report back in August.

Bear Smart
Program Assistant

A presentation by A. Paris was given regarding RMOW Bear Smart program activities and a discussion was held.

- Meeting with WB’s C. Baker and T. Hamilton about managing wildlife attractants during film and photography contracts on Whistler Blackcomb
- The Cinnamon Bear Bar and Grille completed the Bear Smart restaurant program. The Fairmont is interested in completing the program.
- Planning for a berry crop failure communication plan mid-August

- BSPA participating on Thursdays in the Whistler Museum's Discover Nature program at Lost Lake
- Attending neighbourhood block parties

A. DeJong and R. Knapton left at 9:35 a.m.

- Launching the bear alerts page on Whistler.ca. WBAC provided feedback on alerts formatting, emphasizing the action in a different font and making the visible excerpt as the action
- Bear Response Plan in final draft stage

Solid Waste Bylaw

A presentation by H. Beresford was given regarding the draft Solid Waste bylaw and a discussion was held.

- At June 20 meeting, Council gave staff approval to move forward with the bylaw, and it will go for first readings in August.
- There are still final comments being reviewed.
- S. Maxwell met with Infrastructure Services staff to discuss
- WBAC discussed why bylaw did not change garbage shed requirement from 12 units down to 6 units. Rationale provided was to avoid placing financial hardship on small multi-family units, instead to provide option to build shed or pay solid waste fee

ACTION: Circulate solid waste bylaw package for review with comments returned by July 20.

Get Bear Smart Society

A presentation by S. Dolson was given regarding Get Bear Smart Society activities and a discussion was held.

- COS and GBS are ordering an electric mat, difficulty with shipping to Canada
- Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Environmental Fund providing \$5000 grant to digitize the Bear Smart restaurant program. Include the ability to add WWPG and other future questionnaires. Include ability to change and alter questions. A. Paris will work with web developer on Bear Smart Restaurant Program
- GBS to provide training for Bylaw Services work safety in bear country

Review Previous Actions

ACTION: BSPA will be discussing opportunities for garbage to be transported on buses with Whistler Transit.

Move construction bin discussion to August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by S. Dolson

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adjourn the July 12, 2017
Council meeting at 10:12 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: S. Dolson

RECORDING SECRETARY: A. Paris