



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016, STARTING AT 8:30A.M.
At Whistler Public Work Yard – Decker Room
8020 Nesters Road, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4**

PRESENT:

Co-Chair, Get Bear Smart, S. Dolson
Recording Secretary & Co-Chair, Heather Beresford
RMOW, Councillor J. Ford
Conservation Officer Service Representative, B. Mueller
Whistler Blackcomb Representative, A. DeJong
RMOW, Senior Bylaw Enforcement Office, T. Lunn
RCMP Representative, Constable P. Haider
Member at Large, C. Hedderson

PUBLIC:

Whistler Wildlife Protection Group Representative, T. James
Whistler Wildlife Protection Group Representative, V. Lopez
Whistler Wildlife Protection Group Representative, I. Minic-Lukac

REGRETS:

AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative Representative, C. Ruddy
Carney's Waste Systems, Representative, P. Kindree

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by B. Mueller
Seconded by S. Dolson

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear
Advisory Committee agenda of December 14, 2016.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by B. Mueller
Seconded by C. Hedderson

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear
Advisory Committee minutes of November 9, 2016.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

RCMP

A discussion led by Constable P. Haider regarding RCMP activities.

- Two calls in November: bear inside Function Junction Purebread; bear in garage on Piccolo and was hazed
- No bears destroyed by RCMP in 2016

P. Haider left at 8:40 a.m.

Whistler Blackcomb

A discussion led by A. DeJong.

- Nothing to report. Early heavy snow sent bears to den
- Bear viewing tours will continue under new ownership

I. Minic-Lukac arrived at 8:47 a.m.

Conservation Officer Service Update

A discussion led by B. Mueller.

- October 12 bear destruction – more details as requested at November meeting: Sightings started October 2 at Hy's and October 6 at Sundial. Then inside underground parking at Marketplace, and sleeping on sidewalk by Teddy Bear daycare. No wariness displayed. Officer attended and treed bear outside Maury Young Arts Centre. Decision made to remove and destroy bear.
- Bears destroyed by Conservation Officer Service (COS): six in 2012; two in 2013; 12 in 2014 (mainly tagged bears in home invasions); seven in 2015; and five in 2016 + 3-5 vehicle deaths
- Sgt. Simon Gravel returning in late January
- November: 20 calls. Key incidents:
 - Mountainview: attractants
 - Purebread in Function Junction: bear hanging around, no attractants
 - Ambassador: property damage, reward from shed
 - Piccolo: bear breaking into garages repeatedly. Destroyed on November 16. Residents not fined because they fixed the garage but the bear came back again
 - Black Tusk village: small bear relocated to area with good denning site. May not be a Critter Care bear as reported in press

J. Ford arrived 9:00 a.m.

Discussion: Request from Get Bear Smart (GBS) that COS attempt more non-destructive methods to break a bear's pattern. Example, electric grates on doors and windows.

A. DeJong left at 9:08 a.m.

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Bylaw Services
Update

A discussion led by T. Lunn.

- Four calls in November: broken latch on Carney's bin, since repaired; dumped garbage, since cleaned up; Rainbow construction site garbage, since cleaned up; Alpine Meadows unsecured garbage which is rectified after a visit by Bylaw Services to new tenants
- COS to copy Tyler Lunn, Senior Bylaw Enforcement Officer, when reports sent to Bylaw Services email
- McDonald's garbage report from last meeting was followed up but incident happened at Pemberton McDonald's. Whistler bin always secure when visited by Bylaw Services.

RMOW Update

A discussion led by H. Beresford

- Nicole Fitzgerald, Community Member-at-Large, submitted resignation from WBAC.

V. Lopez arrived 9:19 a.m.

ACTION: H. Beresford will advertise for new member in January 2017.

- Bear Smart Program Assistant (BSPA) completed her term in early December. A successful year. Of note, moving the Bear Smart Restaurant Program to a digital platform increased uptake. Bylaw Services may be able to offer support when approaching restaurants.

ACTION: Connect Bylaw Services and 2017 BSPA to discuss improving compliance in Bear Smart Restaurant Program.

- Garbage Disposal Bylaw Update: AWARE will continue working with businesses to assist with awareness and compliance. Anticipate adoption by Council in August 2017.
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF): L. Homstol applied in early November. M. Badry discussed it with HCTF staff and will monitor.
- 2017 Priorities: Bear Response Plan; communications with public improved; will do some print material (final list TBD); parking lot signs; Bear Smart Restaurant Program

2017 Planning

A discussion led by S. Dolson to generate ideas for 2017.

- On-line information quiz for new residents. Consider RMOW and GBS sharing costs and delivering through both websites
- Print materials in hotel rooms. Mixed response to this idea
- Top priorities from Conflict Management Plan
- Implement a Whistler greeting for all businesses that includes Bear Smart information
- Attend/share information with WB orientation sessions
- Car-less residents: H. Beresford follow up with BC Transit staff that S. Maxwell connected with

- Car-less residents: H. Beresford and A. Tucker developing system in January for contractors to bring refuse to compactor sites
- Feature Bear Smart restaurant and recipe monthly on website. Recipe book as fundraiser
- Special events guidelines: reach out to event organizers

ACTION: B. Mueller to share how COS interacts with special events like Ironman and review at January meeting.

Get Bear Smart Society Update Covered in previous discussions

Previous Action Updates All covered except:

- Connect with Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council (SSISC) to ensure that it is not promoting bear attractant plants as alternatives to invasives

ACTION: H. Beresford will follow up with SSISC.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of Other Business.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by S. Dolson

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adjourn the December 14, 2016 committee meeting at 10.22 a.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: Sylvia Dolson

RECORDING SECRETARY: H. Beresford