



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 9th, 2016, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

At Decker Room
RMOW Public Works Yard

PRESENT:

Co-Chair, RMOW, H. Beresford
Co-Chair, Get Bear Smart, S. Dolson
Conservation Officer Service, B. Mueller
Conservation Officer Service, M. Smith
AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative C. Ruddy
Ministry of Environment, M. Badry
Carney's Waste Systems, P. Kindree
RMOW Bylaw Services, C. Riess
RMOW Councillor S. Maxwell
RCMP, Sgt. R. Knapton

Public
Whistler Wildlife Protection Group, E. Gallant
Whistler Wildlife Protection Group, MJ Mullen
Whistler Wildlife Protection Group, I. Minic-Lukac

Bear Smart Program Assistant, Recording Secretary, A. Paris

REGRETS:

WB, A. DeJong
Member at Large, C. Hedderson
Member at Large, N. Fitzgerald

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by C. Ruddy
Seconded by C. Riess

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear
Advisory Committee agenda of November 9th, 2016 as amended to
include Bear Smart Community program update.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Maxwell
Seconded by C. Ruddy

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee minutes of October 12th, 2016.

CARRIED

VERBAL REPORTS

Conservation
Officer
Service

A discussion led by CO B. Mueller and COS Inspector M. Smith regarding COS activities.

- Staffing gap experienced in the Sea to Sky region, D. Miller will be supervising until new sergeant begins. Modified duties for injured staff who have returned. Simon Gravel transferred.
- 36 calls in October, 4 to date in November
- 238 calls in 2016 with COS attending 50
- October 12th: North Vancouver officer attended at Maury Young Arts Centre and a bear was destroyed, not wary of pedestrians
- Number of calls is not the reason for taking action, bear behaviour is key
- Type of release is at the discretion of the field officer. Hard release to keep bears away, soft release to encourage bears to stay in relocated area
- November 8th bear attack in Squamish, closure of Coho park
- Early intervention is best but not always possible

ACTION: B. Mueller will look up statistics, provide details on October 12th bear.

RMOW Bylaw
Services

A discussion led by C. Reiss regarding Bylaw activities.

- Efforts to secure underground areas, Bylaw will continue to monitor
- 5 attractant calls
- Carney's bin at a share house in Brio, on a residential property. Complaint on aesthetics, secure storage. Bylaw 1861 requires written permission from RMOW to place a bin.
- Bylaw following up on hotels with attractant landscaping: Northlands, Cascades and Delta.

RCMP

A discussion led by R. Knapton regarding RCMP activities.

- 6 calls relating to bears in October: Balsam Way, near Olympic rings, Brewhouse storage locker, and garbage near McDonalds

ACTION: A. Paris and Bylaw will follow up on McDonalds

Carney's Waste
Services

A discussion led by P. Kindree regarding Carney's Waste Services.

- One bear outside Whistler transfer station, no food rewards. Electric fence still on
- Discussion re: Car-less resident's recommendations
- Discussion re: managing contractors delivering refuse to compactor sites:
 - RMOW recommending 15 bags per day per compactor site to as not to overwhelm compactors and requiring an extra service run, committee felt that this was restrictive if trying to encourage a company to do pickups
 - Discussion on tracking approved haulers and from where the waste came (to ensure it came from residential properties, more opportunity to look at potential conflict areas
 - Potentially unsecure waste between pickups if there is no standard for contractors providing service
 - Concern that one day a week is too restrictive

ACTION: H. Beresford will follow up RMOW solid waste manager.

AWARE/ Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative

A discussion led by C. Ruddy regarding AWARE and Coast to Cascade Grizzly Bear Initiative activities.

- Grizzly bear symposium at Squamish Lillooet Cultural Centre on November 8th
- C2C GBI is connecting with board of the Audain Grizzly Foundation

Bear Smart Community Update

A discussion lead by M. Badry about the provincial Bear Smart Community program activities.

- Implementing a 5 year review for communities with Bear Smart status
- Review of program itself, incorporating social science

RMOW

A discussion led by H. Beresford regarding RMOW activities.

- GBS, RMOW and COS bear response plan and communication protocol will be developed when new COS sergeant is in place
- Letter of Agreement due for renewal in January 2017
- WBAC supports information sharing

ACTION: RMOW, COS and GBS to meet to discuss communications.

- Conflict Management Plan adopted by Council on November 1
- Restaurant program update: Palmers, Earl's, Dubh Linn Gate and Milestones are all training staff.
- Potential project for SSISC, AWARE and RMOW is to share messaging on invasive species, bear attractants and native species.

ACTION: A. Paris following up with SSISC.

- Bear Smart presence at Connect Whistler (formerly Welcome Week)

Get Bear Smart Society

A discussion led by S. Dolson regarding Get Bear Smart Society activities.

- Social media, Facebook etc., video produced Mad Bear Skillz and infographics
- Distributed to 50 plus business and they're sharing

Previous Action Updates

- Callaghan road hunting regulation change: H. Beresford contacted province. Next regulation change will be in spring of 2018. Must be submitted by October 1st 2017, begin application in spring of 2017.
- Car-less resident's recommendations: Recommendations being considered by staff. Car share opportunities researched, two Zipcars in Whistler and likely to expand.
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund reminded GBS that \$5000 available through court award. GBS applied previously and didn't succeed. Decision made to not apply this year as conditions are very restrictive and effectiveness of project not certain.

ACTION: M. Badry will follow up with HCTF.

- S. Maxwell spoke to BC Transit rep re: garbage on buses. More open to having a conversation.
- Bylaw Services can distribute 4theloveofbears cards when visiting garbage calls.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by P. Kindree
Seconded by C. Reiss

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adjourn the November 9th, 2016 Council meeting at 10:23 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: Sylvia Dolson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Anitra Paris