



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 11, 2017, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

**In the Decker Room
RMOW Public Works Yard**

PRESENT:

Co-Chair, RMOW, H. Beresford
Conservation Officer Service, K. Popjes
RCMP, R. Knapton
RMOW Council, S. Maxwell
Whistler Blackcomb, A. DeJong
Recording Secretary, A. Paris

PUBLIC:

Whistler Wildlife Protection Group, I. Minic-Lukac
M. Toom

REGRETS:

Carney's Waste Systems, P. Kindree
Member at Large, N. Dudley
Member at Large, C. Hedderson
RMOW Bylaw Services, T. Lunn

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Maxwell
Seconded by K. Popjes

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory
Committee agenda of October 11, 2017.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Maxwell
Seconded by A. DeJong

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear
Advisory Committee minutes of September 13, 2017.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

The 2 year term for member-at-large, Colin Hedderson, expires November 2017 and he will be stepping down.

Get Bear Smart Society is appointing Nicole Fitzgerald to replace Sylvia Dolson as its representative.

- Conservation Officer Services
- A presentation by K. Popjes was given regarding Conservation Officer Service's activities and a discussion was held.
- Discussion on when it is appropriate to give a fine, often education first.
 - No bears destroyed in September but a number of calls, advice given four times
 - Nine calls in October, attended two calls
 - Emerald bear was destroyed, behaviour escalated quickly. Bylaw had increased patrols in the area, BSPA provided door to door education.
 - Rainbow Park area reported multiple cougar sightings. Advise the public to carry bear spray.
 - K. Popjes is acting sergeant while S. Gravel is off.
- ACTION: BSPA to prepare cougar alert for social media distribution
- Whistler Blackcomb
- A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding Whistler Blackcomb's activities and a discussion was held.
- No bear issues so far, quietest autumn in recent years
 - Bear are staying longer in the sub-alpine and treeline due to berries
 - There has been more movement towards the valley recently with snowline moving down
- RCMP
- A presentation by R. Knapton was given regarding RCMP activities and a discussion was held.
- Approximately 8 calls in late September to date. RCMP hazed bears at some incidents.
 - Locations ranged from Riverside Campground, Emerald Estates, Alpine Meadows, Audain Museum, Nancy Greene Drive, Cascade Lodge.
- A. DeJong left at 9:03 a.m.*
- RMOW- Bear Smart Program Assistant
- A presentation by A. Paris was given regarding the Bear Smart Program Assistant's activities and a discussion was held.
- Bear spray → discussed opportunities for distribution of partially used cans left behind by visitors, but didn't find a solution.
 - Bear Smart Restaurant Program website conversion completed, Fairmont staff are participating

- Audain Arts Centre supported with signs and information. Its landscaping has a lot of berries.
- Whistler FM, PSAs are live

Car Free Residents Review

A discussion was held regarding the status of the 2016 Car Free Residents recommendations.

ACTION	LEAD	STATUS
Car or truck share system at depots for waste	RMOW	Investigate using RMOW truck or car-share vehicle for residents to sign out and transport garbage
Bike carts available to borrow at depots	RMOW	Not available at this time
Work with BC Transit to allow waste on the bus	RMOW	Pilot project for transporting household waste, recyclables and compost on buses approved by BC Transit
Online system to connect people to rides to depots	Get Bear Smart	"4 the love of bears" Facebook page created. Needs more promotion to maintain awareness of site.
On demand system for waste or book a pick up time	Private waste hauling companies	Businesses keep folding. Pick up locations need to be secure.
Require locking waste bin on property paid for by property owner	RMOW	Beyond RMOW authority
Agreements with landlords and tenants re: managing waste	RMOW	Beyond RMOW authority
Door to door education	RMOW	Ongoing but put more emphasis on community-based social marketing approach to encourage behavior change
Enforcement	RMOW	continuing and increased
Community bear watch program	RMOW	Whistler Wildlife Protection Group has people on specific neighbourhoods
Annual reporting to council	RMOW	Environmental stewardship staff
Communications to reduce waste	RMOW + others	RMOW Infrastructure Services handling
Foster a culture of responsible	RMOW	RMOW Infrastructure Services handling

materials handling		
Focus on separating organics from waste	RMOW	RMOW Infrastructure Services handling
Education for new and seasonal residents	RMOW	Ongoing plus: update WCSS orientation booklet; approach real estate companies with information that could be shared with new home owners.
Work with SLRD Solid Waste coordinator	RMOW	RMOW Infrastructure Services handling. Consider organizing a S2S corridor local government workshop to share ideas

R. Knapton described how RCMP used Nuisance Bylaw in Nanaimo to require homeowners to provide waste disposal etc.

R. Knapton left at 9:52 a.m.

ACTION: Investigate ability of RMOW Nuisance Bylaw to enforce proper waste disposal.

ACTION: RMOW investigate organizing a Sea to Sky corridor bear symposium for local governments and agencies. Information sharing workshops (bylaws, plans, education)

OTHER BUSINESS:

A discussion was led by H. Beresford reviewing the WBAC terms of reference.

- GBS and RMOW Environmental Stewardship Manager are currently co-chairs. Change co-chairs to RMOW staff member and any other permanent WBAC member.
- Suggest a permanent seat for AWARE
- Add minimum meeting attendance requirements
- Increase number of members at large from 2 to 4, preference for someone with bear/wildlife conflict knowledge

K. Popjes left at 10:20am

REVIEW PREVIOUS ACTIONS

- Ask Steve Rochetta to speak about grizzly research.
 - H. Beresford will continue to reach out to him to speak at an event
- Critter Gitter rentals
 - BSPA will reach out to Whistler Public Library about providing service

K. Popjes returned at 10:24 a.m.

- Bear Attractant Plants on RMOW property

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- BSPA removed berries from a high traffic zone in the village Florence Petersen park
- Solid waste contractor pilot project, and Information and checklist sheet for contractors re: construction bins
 - Contact P. Kindree for Carney's depot staff support on pilot project and contractor checklist example
- Food truck staff training re: bear attractants
 - Recommend Bear Smart restaurant training program be required
- Construction Bins: H. Beresford forward Bylaw Services suggestions for solid waste bylaw to James Hallisey

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by K. Popjes

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adjourn the October 11th, 2017 meeting at 10:33 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: H. Beresford

RECORDING SECRETARY: A. Paris