



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.**

**In the Decker Room
8020 Nesters Road, Whistler, BC V0N 1B8**

PRESENT:

Co-Chair, RMOW, H. Beresford
Co-Chair, AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy
RMOW Bear Smart Program Assistant, L. Harrison
Carney's Waste Systems, P. Kindree
RMOW Council, S. Maxwell
Get Bear Smart Society, N. Fitzgerald
Whistler Blackcomb, A. DeJong
Member at Large/Whistler Wildlife Protection Group, I. Minic-Lukac
Member at Large, M. Toom
RMOW Bylaw Services, C. Baker
Conservation Officer Service, B. Mueller
RCMP, R. Knapton

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by S. Maxwell

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee agenda of September 12, 2018.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Baker
Seconded A. DeJong

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee minutes of July 11, 2018.

CARRIED

Updates

Conservation Officer Service

- A sow with a cub of the year (COY) was electrocuted on Whistler mountain. The sow was deceased upon arrival however the COY was healthy. The COY was captured using a live trap and brought to Critter Care for rehabilitation.

MINUTES

Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting

September 12, 2018

Page 2

- Skywalk Trail North and South, Kevin's Homerun, Upper 19 Mile Creek and Screaming Cat Trail have been closed following 2 incidents of an aggressive grizzly bear in the area. These closures are in effect until further notice but are expected to last until denning season. It is believed that both incidents involved the same grizzly bear and the closure is intended to give the grizzly bear the space it needs and to ensure no further conflicts occur with people. These closures are likely to occur in future years as more people access the alpine. The closure has been signed at all of the trail access points and the Parks crew is going to assist in putting up signage at the at the actual trail heads. It is recommended that a protocol for trail closures is created for the future to make the process easier.

ACTION: Add trail closure protocol and communications to Bear Response Plan.

ACTION: Provide bear safety information to Blackcomb Helicopters in relation to heli-bike drops on Rainbow's End trail.

M. Toom arrived 8:42 a.m.

N. Fitzgerald arrived 8:45 a.m.

RCMP

- No major calls about bears this month. There was one call about an injured bear on Callaghan Creek Bridge in August. RCMP attended and the bear was deceased upon arrival. This bear was likely hit by a car.

R. Knapton left 8:47 a.m.

RMOW Bylaw Services

- C. Baker has been meeting with Whistler Community Social Service's (WCSS) about food cache options for camping in the valley. Some suggestions were to create a municipal campground like they have in Squamish, put a food cache somewhere in the village or give these people options to properly secure their attractants.

ACTION: Bylaw Services continue to investigate food cache options for peop camping in the valley.

Carney's Waste Systems

- No updates.

C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative/AWARE

- No updates.

Get Bear Smart Society

- Attended a block party in Emerald.

- Working on creating a 'Bike for Bears' program to patrol the Whistler Golf Course after it closes to inform people about proper bear viewing practices.

Whistler Blackcomb

- Berries are abundant on the mountain and the bears are staying high on the mountain.
- The power to the transformer that killed the bear has been cut off and Whistler Blackcomb is working on removing that transformer. This was the only above ground power line on the mountain.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Bear Smart
 Program
 Assistant

Discover Nature program at Lost Lake is now done for the season. Currently seeking out other opportunities for outreach in the community and looking into doing a presentation at a school.

Presenting 'Working Around Wildlife' training for RMOW staff on September 27th, 2018. Will include information about grizzly bear behavior.

Whistler Museum
 and Archives –
 Interpretive Panels
 Project

Kristina Swerhun (Whistler Museum and Archives) presented on RMOW's Interpretive Panels Project. Led a discussion about location for 12 bear-specific interpretive panels. L. Harrison and C. Baker are the main representatives from the WBAC on this project.

ACTION: L. Harrison distribute locations map for this project and request feedback.

ACTION: COS, GBS and AWARE reps to contact all 3 golf courses and see if they would like to install the interpretive panel.

NEW BUSINESS

Reviewed status of past actions

Action	Meeting Date	Status
L. McIvor/H. Beresford to touch base with Parking Lot Committee and RMOW Communications Department.	January	Adding parking lot signs to the new RMOW Interpretive Panels Project. Will look into moving bear cut outs from playground to parking lot.
Bears 1-pager for rental properties and new home owners.	February	L. Harrison has created this. Need to look into how to distribute.

MINUTES

Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting

September 12, 2018

Page 4

<p>RMOW to consider existing and needed efforts to promote proper composting practices</p>	<p>March</p>	<p>RMOW website updated. https://www.whistler.ca/services/waste-management/composting/backyard-composting</p>
<p>Talk to Kerry Ing regarding an RMOW reporting app for issues in the community and ensure that there is a bear component.</p>	<p>May</p>	<p>L. Harrison talked to Kerry Ing. App will not be created until 2019 and K. Ing will request feedback at that time. Completed.</p>
<p>Look into permitting for bear viewing tours and removing permits if operators are not operating under a set of guidelines that keeps bears and people safe.</p>	<p>May</p>	<p>Business License Bylaw is currently being rewritten and the change will allow RMOW to revoke business licenses to people who are not following laws. Complete for now but will look into actually revoking licenses once the bylaw is rewritten.</p>
<p>Talk to Tourism Whistler and all of the golf courses about promoting safe bear viewing practices.</p>	<p>June</p>	<p>L. Harrison will work on this.</p>
<p>WBAC members to review and provide guidance on design, content and location for 12 bear-specific interpretive panels developed by John Rae (RMOW), Kristina Swerhun and Brad Nichols (Whistler Museum and Archives) as part of RMOW's Interpretive Panels Project.</p>	<p>July</p>	<p>Underway. WBAC providing input. L. Harrison to distribute locations map for this project and request feedback. B. Mueller, N. Fitzgerald and C. Ruddy contacting golf courses.</p>
<p>Create protocol for trail closures</p>	<p>September</p>	<p>L. Harrison will create a draft of this and B. Mueller and the RMOW Environmental Coordinator will complete this during the winter.</p>

MINUTES

Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting

September 12, 2018

Page 5

Look into where bikers are being heli-dropped and what information regarding bear safety they are receiving.	September	L. Harrison will contact Blackcomb Helicopters about its heli-bike service.
Look into food cache options for people camping in the valley.	September	C. Baker is working with WCSS on this.

TERMINATION

Moved by S. Maxwell

Seconded by P. Kindree

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee terminate the September 12, 2018 Whistler Bear Advisory Committee meeting at 10:32 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: C. Ruddy

RECORDING SECRETARY: L. Harrison