



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018 STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.**

**In the Decker Room
8020 Nesters Road, Whistler, BC V8E 0G4**

PRESENT:

Co-Chair, RMOW, H. Beresford
Co-Chair, AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy
RMOW Bylaw Services, C. Baker
GFL Environmental, P. Kindree
Member at Large, M. Toom
RCMP, R. Knapton
RMOW Environmental Coordinator, A. Sefton

Whistler Community Services Society, T. Macdougall
Whistler Community Services Society, T. Macdougall

ABSENT:

RMOW Council, A. DeJong
Get Bear Smart Society, N. Fitzgerald
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lukac
Conservation Officer Service, S. Gravel

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by C. Ruddy
Seconded by C. Baker

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee agenda of November 14, 2018.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Ruddy
Seconded C. Baker

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee minutes of October 10, 2018.

CARRIED

M. Toom arrived at 8.38

Updates

RMOW Bylaw Services

A presentation by C. Baker was given regarding RMOW Bylaw Services' activities and a discussion was held.

- Calls regarding attractants: 5 in September, 4 in October, and 2 in November thus far.
- Calls regarding illegal camping: 8 in September, 3 in October, and 1 in November thus far.
- Issues are resolved case by case. In certain cases involving illegal camping, Whistler Community Services Society (WCSS) is brought in to work with the perpetrator.

Whistler Community Services Society

A presentation by T. Macdougall was given regarding Whistler Community Services activities and a discussion was held.

- In 2018, there has been 15 - 20 people living outdoors labelled as chronically homeless, defined by WCSS as people living outdoors the majority of the year. These people typically have mental health or substance abuse issues. Every one of these people have had one or more encounters with a bear.
- Summer 2018, there were also 30-75 people living outdoors in illegal camps, typically people working full time in the community and long term locals. Many have had encounters with bears although are reluctant to report these incidents through fear of being displaced.
- WCSS proposed 3 options to reduce bear conflict with the homeless population; 1) provide portable food caches, 2) create a storage area/facility in the village, and 3) a small sanctioned camp for tents only. Spaces would be assigned by WCSS.

ACTION: T. Macdougall to provide evidence to quantify the number of encounters and details of those encounters.

- A. Sefton to add WCSS's T.Macdougall to January agenda to present evidence as a consideration for recommendations to Council.

T.Macdougall left at 9:11 a.m.

RCMP

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

- Number of bear files: 6 in October, and 4 in November to date.

GFL Environmental

A presentation by P. Kindree was given regarding GFL Environmental's activities and a discussion was held.

- Quiet, no conflicts to report.
- The waste transfer station will shut down its electric fence as snow starts to build up, it will be turned on again in the spring.

AWARE/C2C

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

- Quiet, the organization is in predominantly in report mode.
- 2019 spring planning underway.
- AWARE will be presenting to new workers/residents and front line staff at the Chamber's 'Whistler Experience' program. There are 15 sessions over the coming months with approximately 250 people per session.

R. Knpton left at 9.46

RMOW Environmental Stewardship

A presentation by H. Beresford was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship Initiative activities and a discussion was held.

- Shared the Trail Planning Working Group newsletter, will distribute within committee. Key takeaways were a focus on e bikes and plans for RMOW to develop a trails access management plan.
- Discussion around using recommendations from Wind River Bear Institute's alpine trail assessments report to inform alpine trail planning and guidelines.
- A wildlife alert sent out over bear activity in Whistler Cay area.
- Reviewing internally the messaging on our website around bear attractants.
- Get Bear Smart Society has a new page called Whistler Basics, it also showcases where all resources are in town.
www.bearsmart.com/whistler-basics/

ACTION PLAN 2019

Priorities:

- Review implementing signage along trails in coordination with other stakeholders (RMOW, RSTBC, Coast to Cascades).
- Explore options to reduce human-bear conflict with illegal camping.
- GIS: Determine how to use GIS as an internal tool to look for hotspots and conflict patterns. Clarify purpose and outcomes.
- Explore options to use Business Regulation Bylaw as an enforcement measure i.e., business must provide a solid waste management plan.
- Plus ongoing public education, incident responses, etc.

ACTION: A. Sefton to get bear smart information/brochures in the Squamish Adventure Centre driving lounge to catch those on route to the Callaghan, Whistler and beyond.

ACTION: C. Baker to request Kevin Creery present on Building Regulation bylaw updates

NEW BUSINESS

Reviewed status of past actions

Action	Meeting Date	Status
L. Mclvor/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. Currently have the contact list to send out to rental properties but need to figure out how to reach new homeowners. A.Sefton to continue
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.	May	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.
Talk to Tourism Whistler and all of the golf courses about promoting safe bear viewing practices. WBAC members to review and provide guidance on design, content and location for 12 bear-specific interpretive panels developed by John	June/July	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. A.Sefton to follow up

MINUTES

Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting

November 14, 2018

Page 5

Rae (RMOW), Kristina Swerhun and Brad Nichols (Whistler Museum and Archives) as part of RMOW's Interpretive Panels Project.		
Create protocol for trail closures	September	RMOW Environmental Coordinator will complete this during the winter. Coordinate with B.Muller and RMOW Parks Planning team.
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 and provide them with information to give their clients. A.Sefton to confirm if complete.
Look into food cache options for people camping in the valley.	September	C. Baker is working with WCSS on this.
Email companies that deliver food to Whistler and leave the food outside a letter asking them not to since it is a bear attractant.	October	A.Sefton to complete
L. Harison to coordinate with COS for door-to-door outreach in Creekside.	October	L. Harrison will work on this. A.Sefton to confirm what was done.
T.Mcdougall of WCC to provide evidence to quantify the number of encounters and details of those encounters.	November	WCC to work on this. A.Sefton will add to January agenda.
Get bear smart information/brochures in Squamish Adventure Centre driving lounge.	November	A.Sefton working on this.
C.Baker to request a presentation on the Building Regulations Bylaw updates.	November	C.Baker is working on this.

TERMINATION

Moved by C.Ruddy
Seconded by P. Kindree

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee terminate the November 14, 2018
Whistler Bear Advisory Committee meeting at 10:26 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: C. Ruddy

RECORDING SECRETARY: A. Sefton