



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, December 12, 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
RMOW Bylaw Services, J. Pineda
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lukac
Conservation Officer Service, S. Gravel
RMOW Environmental Coordinator, A. Sefton

ABSENT:

RMOW Council, A. DeJong
Get Bear Smart Society, N. Fitzgerald
GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau
Member at Large, M. Toom
RCMP, R. Knapton

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by C. Baker
Seconded by S. Gravel

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

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Baker
Seconded H. Beresford

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

CARRIED

Updates

Conservation Officer Service

A presentation by S. Gravel was given regarding the Conservation Officer Services activities and a discussion was held.

- 2 bears captured and relocated within the last 2 weeks as a result of attractants.
- Potential of expanding 'no go' bear zone and updating terminology to not discourage COS calls.
- Media release this week regarding an incident in the Kadenwood area of someone feeding bears, COS are seeking further information.
- Continued work on the Wildlife Act relating to discharge of firearms in the Whistler area. Update expected in the New Year.

Action: Bear Response Plan updates to consider updating 'no go' zones and terminology. Add to future agenda.

RMOW Bylaw Service

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

- Calls regarding attractants: 5 in November.
- Calls regarding illegal camping: 3 in November.
- This is C. Baker's last meeting as a member on the WBAC, J. Pineda will take over for RMOW Bylaw Services.

AWARE/C2C

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

- Looking to 2019 planning. Focus on backcountry and behavior planning with Coast to Cascades and Grizzly Bear Foundation.
- AWARE: Weekly presentations to the Whistler Experience program still underway, reaching around 3000 locals.
- Presentation to Committee of the Whole on proactive land use and access management.

Action: Investigate options to collect unused bear sprays left by tourists and donate to WCSS or other. J. Pineda to speak with T. Macdougall at WCSS

Communications Planning

A presentation by H. Beresford was given regarding communications planning and a discussion was held.

- Website messaging updates around bear attractants completed.
- Budget aside for educational pamphlets and signage.
- Based on priority actions for 2019, a communication plan was discussed and priorities identified:
 1. Review implementing signage along trails in coordination with other stakeholders (RMOW, RSTBC, Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative).

- a. GBI has trailhead signs ready for installation at trailheads. Still has funds for more signs.
- b. Need to coordinate with RMOW, RSTBC, COS alpine sign initiative. Include C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative as planning moves forward. Need to develop key messages, types of signs. Bring draft plans to WBAC for input.
2. Explore options to reduce human-bear conflict with illegal camping.
 - a. Meet with Taylor Macdougall (WCSS) again and potentially make recommendations to Council. Determine follow up actions depending on what is recommended/decided at the meeting with Taylor.
 - b. Env'tl Stewardship work with Bylaw Services to refresh their illegal camping brochure. Consider including other issues around illegal camping – where to camp, bears, litter, water quality/toilet facilities. Squamish has a similar brochure (Simon to provide). WBAC to review drafts.
3. GIS: Determine how to use GIS as an internal tool to look for hotspots and conflict patterns. Clarify purpose and outcomes.
 - a. Objective is to collect incident information from public, record locations on GIS, observe patterns and deliver targeted interventions. Invite GIS Coordinator to WBAC meeting.
 - b. Investigate potential to add bear sightings to RMOW 311 service. How to link with RAPP line?
4. Explore options to use Business Regulation Bylaw as an enforcement measure i.e., business must provide a solid waste management plan.
 - a. Request relevant RMOW staff attend WBAC meeting to share how BR bylaw could assist with bear issues.
5. Plus ongoing public education, incident responses, etc. (WBAC to review drafts)
 - o Make some short videos with COS, Bylaw etc. on various topics. Create a shared pool of resources/videos
 - o Day lot parking lot signs; consider bear crossing signs on municipal roads
 - o Life sized bear signs for parks
 - o Brochures – visitor brochures, illegal camping (Bylaw Services), door hangers. Rack card format

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. Planned for 2019.

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<p>Bears 1-pager for rental properties and new home owners.</p>	<p>February</p>	<p>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 sent to real estate, BSPA to send to property managers in spring.</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. 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>June/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. A. Sefton to follow up. In progress. Kristina will have content for review by Jan 2019.</p>
<p>Create protocol for trail closures</p>	<p>September</p>	<p>RMOW Environmental Coordinator will complete this during the winter. Coordinate with B. Mueller and RMOW Parks Planning team.</p>
<p>Look into where bikers are being heli-dropped and what information regarding bear safety they are receiving.</p>	<p>September</p>	<p>L. Harrison will contact Blackcomb Helicopters about its heli-bike service and provide them with information to give their clients. Planned for spring 2019.</p>
<p>Look into food cache options for people camping in the valley.</p>	<p>September</p>	<p>C. Baker is working with WCSS on this.</p>
<p>Email companies that deliver food to Whistler and leave the food outside a letter asking them not to since it is a bear attractant.</p>	<p>October</p>	<p>A. Sefton to complete. Complete (2018.11.22).</p>

L. Harrison to coordinate with COS for door-to-door outreach in Creekside.	October	L. Harrison will work on this. Door to door outreach not done, will consider for 2019 work plan. (Complete).
T. Macdougall 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. Complete (2018.11.23).
C. Baker to request a presentation on the Business Regulation Bylaw update.	November	C. Baker has confirmed it is possible when WBAC is ready for presentation (2018.12.12).
Bear Response Plan updates to consider 'no go' zones and terminology.	December	A. Sefton to add to future agenda for discussion.
Look at options to collect unused bear sprays left by tourists and donate to WCSS or other.	December	J. Pineda to speak with T. Macdougall at WCSS.
Review Bylaw's Illegal camping pamphlet, update to include bear messaging.	December	A. Sefton to action.

TERMINATION

Moved by C.Ruddy
 Seconded by S.Gravel

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee terminate the December 12, 2018 Whistler Bear Advisory Committee meeting at 10:13 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: C. Ruddy

RECORDING SECRETARY: A. Sefton