



WHISTLER

MINUTES **REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE** **WEDNESDAY, January 9, 2019 STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.**

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

PRESENT:

Co-Chair, RMOW, H. Beresford
RMOW Bylaw Services, J. Pineda
RMOW Council, A. DeJong
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lukac
Member at Large, M. Toom (phone)
WCSS, T. Macdougall
Recording Secretary, A. Sefton

ABSENT:

Get Bear Smart Society, N. Fitzgerald
GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau
RCMP, R. Knapton
Conservation Officer Service, S. Gravel
Co-Chair, AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by J. Pineda

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler
Bear Advisory Committee agenda of January 9, 2019.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by J. Pineda

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

CARRIED

Updates

- RMOW Bylaw Service
- A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding RMOW Bylaw Services' activities and a discussion was held.
- Calls regarding attractants: 1 in December
- RMOW Council
- A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding RMOW Council activities and a discussion was held.
- Council's focus at present is on housing and a recent security breach with whistler.ca
 - Not possible for the RMOW to enforce a closed doors policy for businesses in the community to save energy
 - Approximately 400cm of snow in December 2018 on the mountain, more than typical. That is half of the expected winter snowfall
 - No bear activity
- RMOW Environmental Stewardship
- A presentation by H. Beresford was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship (ES) activities and a discussion was held.
- ES held annual strategy session in December, which included the Bear Smart Program Assistant
 - Work plan items from WBAC priority planning incorporated into 2019 strategic planning
 - Preparing a grizzly bear conflict management plan for alpine trails in cooperation with COS and Recreation Sites & Trails BC
- Whistler Community Services Society
- A presentation by T. Macdougall was given regarding Whistler Community Services Society activities and a discussion was held.
- WCSS has distributed 2 short surveys, 1 for service providers and 1 for the homeless
 - Received 7 completed surveys from homeless people who reside in Whistler, the highest number seen during the winter months in recent years. Survey results showed 100% of those homeless people have had numerous bear interactions, some examples below:
 - 50 interactions over 15-20 years living homeless in Whistler
 - 30 interactions over 10-15 years living homeless in Whistler

- 10 interactions over <10 years living homeless in Whistler
- Average of 3 interactions per person each summer

T.Macdougall left at 9:18 a.m.

ACTION: WCSS to develop a management plan for a pilot project of portable food caches. Once approved by WBAC, funding will be provided to purchase a number of caches to be piloted during summer 2019.

RECOMMENDATION: WBAC recognizes that there is an issue related to human bear conflict and the homeless community in Whistler and would like council to look into the broader issue of homelessness and bear encounters.

Moved by I. Minic-Lukac
Seconded by J. Pineda

K.Swerhun arrived at 9:41am

Interpretive
bear
panels

A presentation by K.Swerhun was given regarding bear specific interpretive panels and a discussion was held.

- WBAC provided comments and edits to improve the signs

TERMINATION

Moved by J. Pineda
Seconded by A. DeJong

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee terminate the January 9, 2019 Whistler Bear Advisory Committee meeting at 10:36 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: C. Ruddy

RECORDING SECRETARY: A. Sefton