



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019, 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, J. Pineda  
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lucak  
Conservation Officer Services, B. Mueller  
Member at Large, M. Toom

Recording Secretary, L. Harrison

**REGRETS:**

Get Bear Smart Society  
RCMP, R. Knapton  
GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau  
RMOW Council, A. DeJong

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by B. Mueller  
Seconded by I. Minic-Lucak

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Agenda of April 10, 2019.

**CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by J. Pineda  
Seconded by H. Beresford

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Minutes of March 13, 2019.

**CARRIED**

## PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

### Updates

#### Conservation Officer Service

A presentation by B. Mueller was given regarding Conservation Officer Service activities and a discussion was held.

- One call in Whistler about a bear.
- Issue with dogs chasing bears on the golf courses.

ACTION: L. Harrison to look into temporary signs to put on the golf courses about keeping dogs on leash.

*M. Toom arrived at 8:40 am*

#### RMOW Bylaw Services

A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding RMOW Bylaw Services activities and a discussion was held.

- Received two calls related to garbage disposal issues. Pushing for locks on garbage disposal room.
- No calls regarding wildlife in the last month.

#### AWARE/C2C

A presentation by C. Ruddy was given regarding AWARE/C2C activities and a discussion was held.

- C2C is planning a grizzly bear awareness presentation for backcountry users.
- C2C is willing to fund Dr. Lana Ciarniello, human-bear conflict expert, to review the Grizzly Bear Management Plan.
- AWARE is hosting a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### RMOW Environmental Stewardship

A presentation by L. Harrison was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.

- First bear video for public education has been released on Facebook and Instagram and it has received many views.
- Developing a 1-pager for property managers to provide to their guests about managing attractants. Aiming to work with the property managers to ensure their buildings are free of attractants.
- Developing a series of guidelines regarding biking and bears for adventure operators to provide to their guests.

*A. Oja and L. Russel arrived at 9:00 am*

#### Grizzly Bear Management Plan

A presentation by H. Beresford, L. Russel and A. Oja was given on the final Grizzly Bear Alpine Trails Management Plan and a discussion was held.

- Plan created to manage alpine trails to avoid encounters and ensure trail use doesn't impact grizzly habitat.
- Plan being brought to council on April 16<sup>th</sup> before going out for further consultation.

Commercial Bear  
 Viewing Best  
 Practice

A presentation by K. McRae from the Commercial Bear Viewing Association was given on the Commercial Viewing Association and their best practices.

- COS has a number of concerns about the best practices document specifically regarding minimum distances to keep between humans and bears. B. Mueller is going to work with K. McRae to develop a best practices document specifically for the Sea to Sky region.
- Whistler is going to require that bear viewing companies are a member of the Commercial Bear Viewing association and that best practices are followed. WBAC will work with bylaw to ensure that this can be enforced. K. Creery from bylaw to do a presentation at the July meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Reviewed status of past actions

Action	Meeting Date	Status
Bears 1-pager for rental properties and new home owners.	February	L. Harrison going to send document out to WBAC for review.
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 Regulation Bylaw is currently being rewritten and the change may allow RMOW to revoke business licenses to people who are not following laws. Complete for now but review once the bylaw is rewritten.
Talk to Tourism Whistler and all of the golf courses about promoting safe bear viewing practices.	June/July	Underway. Golf courses have been contacted about interpretive signs and are not interested in permanent signs. L. Harrison to reach out about temporary signs regarding bears and dogs.
Create protocol for trail closures	September	Underway. H. Beresford to finish.
Look into where bikers are being heli-dropped and what information regarding bear safety they are receiving.	September	L. Harrison to send out a biking and bears document to WBAC for review.
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. Planning to schedule this for the July meeting.
Look at options to collect unused bear sprays left by tourists and donate to WCSS or other.	December	T. Macdougall at WCSS has agreed to take unused Bear spray. H. Williamson to add to May agenda to discuss program plan.
Review Bylaw's Illegal camping pamphlet, update to include bear messaging.	December	A. Sefton to action. In progress.

**MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by B. Mueller  
Seconded by J. Pineda

**That** the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of April 10, 2019 be terminated at 10:30 a.m.

CARRIED

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Chair, Claire Ruddy

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Recording Secretary, Lauren Harrison