



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

Online- Zoom

### PRESENT:

Co-Chair and Recording Secretary, RMOW, H. Williamson  
Co-Chair, AWARE/C2C, C. Ruddy  
RMOW Bylaw Services, J. Pineda  
Conservation Officer Services, B. Mueller,  
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lukac  
Member at Large, M. Webster  
Member at Large, A. Baudouin

Member of the public, A. Dowling  
RMOW Bear Smart Program Assistant (temporary), L. Harrison

### REGRETS:

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

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory  
Committee Agenda of June 17, 2020.

CARRIED

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

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

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear  
Advisory Committee Minutes of March 11, 2020.

CARRIED

## UPDATES

- Conservation Officer Service
- A presentation by B. Mueller was given regarding Conservation Officer Service activities and a discussion was held.
- 210 black bear reports and 9 grizzly bear reports in Whistler since January. Only one of the grizzly bears was confirmed through a photograph.
  - There have been several reports of black bears bluff charging people on the Valley Trail and of food-conditioned bears.
  - COS is organizing a training with outreach volunteers to ensure consistent messaging regarding bears.
- RMOW Bylaw
- A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding Bylaw activities and a discussion was held.
- Bylaw was very busy in May, there were few calls about businesses that were shut down but forgot to maintain their outdoor garbage facilities. There was one fine given out regarding attractants where the old tenants left garbage outside and vacated the property
  - There is one individual living around Lost Lake who is not properly managing their food and garbage. Bylaw is working with WCSS and COS to try to find a solution to managing this person's attractants.
- AWARE/C2C
- A presentation by C. Ruddy was given regarding AWARE/C2C activities and a discussion was held.
- AWARE hosted a webinar about grizzly bears, the webinar featured 4 grizzly bear researchers who discussed grizzly bear habitat, behavior and biology. The event was very successful with 300 people watching live and another 250 people watching the recorded event.
  - The questions asked by the audience indicated that there is a lot of misinformation about grizzly bears in Whistler. C. Ruddy will email H. Williamson the questions asked to help with RMOW bear communications.
- RMOW Environmental Stewardship
- A presentation by H. Williamson and L. Harrison was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.
- The Environmental Stewardship team has been running on reduced capacity since mid-March. The new BSPA was not brought on and H. Williamson has been responsible for managing the bear program. L. Harrison has been brought on for 8 hours a week for the month of June to assist the department. H. Williamson will continue to manage the bear program with reduced capacity going forward.
  - L. Harrison has created the communications plan for 2020, organized volunteers and is working on creating a plant attractants policy for RMOW land.
- WWPG
- A presentation by I. Minic-Lukac was given regarding WWPG activities and a discussion was held.

- I. Minic-Lukac organized the Biking 4 Bears program this spring. Volunteers biked around the Whistler golf course to talk to members of the public about responsible bear viewing behavior. Golf courses blocked access to the greens this spring however people still went on them. The golf courses are now open.
- There was a sow and 3 cubs in Bayshores and Creekside this year. WWPG organized door knocks in these neighbourhoods to talk to residents about attractants.
- I. Minic-Lukac contacted the Facebook page 'Whistler Winter/Summer' and asked them to remove pictures of bears with the location, which they have agreed to do.

### **MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by C. Ruddy  
Seconded by J. Pineda

**That** the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of June 17, 2020 be terminated at 9:04 a.m.

CARRIED

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Chair, Claire Ruddy

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Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson