



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020, STARTING AT 8:30
A.M.**

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

PRESENT:

Co-Chair and Recording Secretary, RMOW, H. Williamson
Conservation Officer Services, B. Mueller
RMOW Bylaw Services, J. Pineda
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lukac

Conservation Officer Services, E. Harbich

REGRETS:

RCMP, R. Knapton
Co-Chair. AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy
Get Bear Smart Society, E. Lamb
RMOW Council, A. DeJong
Member at Large, M. Webster
Member at Large, A. Baudouin
GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by B. Mueller
Seconded by J. Pineda

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Agenda of February 12, 2020.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by I. Minic-Lukac
Seconded by H. Williamson

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Minutes of January 8, 2020.

CARRIED

UPDATES

- Conservation Officer Service A presentation by B. Mueller was given regarding Conservation Officer Service activities and a discussion was held.
- No bear calls in past month
 - Officer T. Shumacher has returned from parental leave
- Bylaw A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding Bylaw activities and a discussion was held.
- No calls for wildlife attractants in past month
- RMOW Environmental Stewardship A presentation by H. Williamson was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.
- L. Harrison has received Solid Waste Technician position with the RMOW Infrastructure Services Department and will not be returning as the Bear Smart Program Assistant.
 - The BSPA position has been posted with an April start date
- RMOW Communications Strategy Committee reviewed the RMOW Bear Smart communications strategy and a discussion was held.
- Social Media
 - 2019 Review:
 - Bear related social media posts performed better than average in terms of the number of people reached and number of people interacting with posts
 - Wildlife alerts were best performing bear posts
 - Key messaging for 2020:
 - Call COS early- COS has many non-lethal tools to guide bears back to natural habitats before they become habituated.
 - Keep dogs on leash- Dogs do not provide protection from bears and even the most well trained dogs can provoke defensive behavior in a bear.
 - Manage attractants- everyone must remain diligent, it only takes one instance of a bear accessing a non-natural food source for them to develop an association between humans (Cars, BBQ's, etc.) and food
 - Give bears space- bears are wild animals and should be treated as such
 - Events
 - BSPA attended a large number of events in 2019 and spoke with many different demographics. However, young transient workers remain difficult to reach
 - Whistler Inside Scoop, occurs 2x per year, would be a great opportunity for BSPA to communicate bear messaging to young transient workers
 - Rental Properties
 - Ongoing issues with short term rental properties identified in 2019
 - Re-send rental 1-page document to all rental properties including Airbnb

- Include messaging alerting property owners that they could be fined if there are unsecured attractants on the property
- Bear viewing
 - Contact Hotel Association, Village Hosts and Tourism Whistler and encourage them to promote safe bear viewing practices:
 - Do not send visitors to specific locations to view bears on their own
 - If guests want to view bears then direct them to bear viewing tours
 - If you see a bear remain at least 100 meters away

Bear Smart Door Hangers and Visitors Guide

Committee reviewed the RMOW Bear Smart door hangers and visitors guides and a discussion was held.

- Small typo in “safe viewing of bears” section of visitors guide, ensure this is corrected for re-prints
- Reviewed both previous and new door hanger templates, decided that:
 - New templates are effective in delivering general information to homeowners
 - Old templates are more effective in alerting home owners to a potential issue on their property and would be more useful to COS. Some information on old templates is out of date.
 - If budget allows, update information in old templates and have both old and new versions of door hangers available. Alternatively, a new template could be designed which incorporates key aspects of previous designs.
- COS would like copies of visitors guide and door hangers

MOTION TO TERMINATE

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

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of February 12, 2020 be terminated at 10:0 a.m.

CARRIED

Chair and Recording Secretary, Hillary
Williamson