



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 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, A. Baudouin  
RMOW Council, A. DeJong  
RCMP, S. Wirth in place of R. Knapton

Member of the public, S. Thomas

**REGRETS:**

Member at Large, M. Webster  
Get Bear Smart Society, E. Lamb  
GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by A. DeJong  
Seconded by H. Williamson

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Agenda of July 8, 2020.

CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by C. Ruddy  
Seconded by I. Minic-Lukac

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

CARRIED

## UPDATES

- Conservation Officer Service      A presentation by B. Mueller was given regarding Conservation Officer Service activities and a discussion was held.
- Calls to RAPP line for bears in Whistler: 83 calls in June, slight decrease in July, there has only been 12 calls so far this month. Bears may be beginning to move up the mountain.
  - There are still ongoing issues:
    - Many calls regarding bears accessing BBQ's
    - One call for a Cherry Tree acting as a potential attractant
    - One bear entered a dwelling in Whistler Cay. COS set up a trap, captured two different bears on two separate occasions, both were relocated a short distance. Unknown if the target bear was caught but there have been no more calls for that location.
    - There are a few bears that are still hanging around the Village area
    - Member of the public fined for leaving garbage in the back of an open pick-up truck which was parked in the Day lots.
- ACTION: Brittany to schedule a volunteer training session to ensure standardize bear messaging throughout Whistler. Dates for training session are TBD.
- Whistler Blackcomb      A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding Whistler Blackcomb activities and a discussion was held.
- Bear activity appears to be moving up the mountain, most activity is now around 1500 meters. There are plentiful feeding opportunities on the mountain right now and few visitors, in addition, WB is not currently running any bear viewing activities.
  - One report of a two year old bear who appeared to be injured (limping) on the mountain around mid-elevation
- RCMP      A presentation by S. Wirth was given regarding RCMP activities and a discussion was held.
- 10 bear related calls for the month of June, most were just sightings. No calls for aggressive or defensive bear activity.
- Council      A discussion by A. DeJong was given regarding council activities and a discussion was held.
- Heather and Louisa, RMOW Environmental Stewardship department, presented RMOW climate change strategy to council
  - Discussed fuel thinning and wildfire activity during committee of the whole. In the past couple years we have learned that wildfire behavior in the sea to sky is behaving more like fires in the interior of BC.
- RMOW Bylaw      A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding Bylaw activities and a discussion was held.
- Bylaw has brought on some new staff recently to act as Park and Trail ambassadors.
  - Bylaw is planning on increased enforcement surrounding dogs on leash
  - Few calls regarding bear activity or garbage in the past month

AWARE/C2C

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

- Working with RMOW infrastructure services department and local restaurants to manage the additional waste generated by take away containers. Goal is to consolidate the materials being used to ensure that these items are being disposed of properly.
- Ecocitizen video is being converted into print format so it can be more widely shared
- Canadian Wilderness Adventures are renewing their tenure in the Callaghan Valley. In their application they have asked to put in a new 400 person campsite. AWARE is planning on responding to this application with concerns surrounding the importance of this area to Grizzly recovery. WBAC may want to consider responding to this application as well.
- AWARE is currently creating a program to audit local businesses and strata's regarding how waste is being handled. They would not be in an enforcement position but would like educate owners/managers in the case of non-compliance with local bylaws or wildlife act.

ACTION: Claire will get in touch with J. Pineda and B. Mueller to go over relevant local bylaws and

ACTION: Hillary will send current RMOW Bear Smart Restaurant program to Claire to help inform the educational side of this program

RMOW  
Environmental  
Stewardship

A presentation by H. Williamson was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.

- Lauren Harrison just completed her redeployment with us and has returned to her full time position with infrastructure services. Lauren was able to complete the following items during redeployment:
  - General bear messaging is scheduled once per week on social media until mid-December
  - Bear smart information package was re-sent to all strata property management companies to be passed on to new and current renters. Wanted to send information Airbnb hosts but ran into difficulties obtaining contact information.
  - Reached out to Village Hosts, Hotel Concierges and Tourism Whistler with information surrounding encouraging safe bear viewing practices.
  - Started drafting policy surrounding management of attractant plants on RMOW owned land. We already have a thorough policy in place regarding managing attractant plants on privately owned land.
- Still no word on when we will be able to bring the Bear Smart Program Assistant back on board, in the meantime Hillary will cover any urgent or ongoing work surrounding the RMOW Bear Smart Program.

ACTION: Hillary to re-send information surrounding the management of attractant plants to strata management properties. This information was last sent in the summer of 2019.

- WWPG A presentation by I. Minic-Lukac was given regarding WWPG activities and a discussion was held.
- Little activity on the part of WWPG over the past month as there has been no requests for any particular neighborhoods to be canvassed

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Bear Banger use when camping S. Wirth brought up a recent event in Squamish where a presenter was giving a bear smart talk to a group of Cubs, Scouts and Beavers. The presenter had brought up the use of bear bangers while camping but some had expressed concerns around the potential for this to cause wildfires.
- B. Mueller suggested that Bear Spray is generally recommended over bear bangers as it is more easily controlled and directed. Bear Bangers can be more unpredictable and have unintended consequences.

ACTION: S. Wirth to follow up with Cubs, Scouts and Beavers group on presentation and will follow up with B. Mueller. B. Mueller will clarify and provide additional information if necessary.

- Reports of bears being fed in Bayshores I Minic-Lukac brought up the reports of bears being fed by a resident in Bayshores and queried whether this had been reported through the proper channels.
- B. Mueller clarified that there were still no reports made to the RAPP line regarding feeding. COS has spent a significant amount of time in the neighborhood but all reports made were based on second hand information. There is not enough information for enforcement at this point.

### **MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by A. DeJong  
Seconded by C. Ruddy

**That** the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of July 8, 2020 be terminated at 9:23 a.m.

CARRIED

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Chair, Claire Ruddy

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Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson