



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M
In the Decker Meeting Room
Public Works Building, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4**

PRESENT:

RMOW, Heather Beresford
GBS, Sylvia Dolson
Conservation Officer Service, Simon Gravel
Bylaw, Nancy Johnston
RMOW Bear Smart Program Assistant, Kate Brandon
Carney's Waste Systems, Ray Christensen
RCMP, Sgt. Rob Knapton
WB, Arthur DeJong
RMOW Council, Sue Maxwell
Lori Homstol

Recording Secretary, Kate Brandon

REGRETS:

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Simon Gravel
Seconded by Rob Knapton

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee agenda of November 4, 2015.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Arthur DeJong
Seconded by Rob Knapton

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the regular Black Bear Working Committee minutes of October 14, 2015.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICE (COS) UPDATE

- Quiet since last meeting

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- Zero conflicts over past week which allowed for proactive work; audits, inspections and warnings
- Community doing well with managing garbage and understanding bear and food waste issue
- New officer starting Dec 1, 2015

RCMP UPDATE

- 3 calls in October
- Overall very quiet month for bear activity

CARNEY'S UPDATE

- Updating construction waste bins by adding 'no food waste' bylaw decal
- Some construction areas continuing to struggle with food waste
Action: provide information to Kate to follow up and meet with construction supervisors in area and contact Home Builders Association
- Sylvia mentioned that some garbage rooms door bolts have not been closed properly after Carney's service
Action: Ray to address topic at Carneys Operations Meeting

WHISTLER BLACKCOMB UPDATE

- Bear viewing tours completed on October 31st
- Towards end of viewing season only two young adult males were observed, other bears may already have started hibernation, early hibernation is not uncommon when food is scarce especially for females
- Season was approximately 3 weeks ahead this year
- If bears are staying awake it is likely that they are accessing unnatural food sources

BYLAW UPDATE

- 3 garbage calls
- Tapley's farm mail kiosk had some food waste issues; primarily coffee and hot chocolate cups from Halloween event, isolated event that has been cleaned up
Action: Heather to follow up with event organizers
- Lot 4 garbage bin back was left up a couple of times, Bylaw keeping an eye on it. Six new double bins to be installed in day lots which may alleviate some of the waste issues

GET BEAR SMART SOCIETY (GBS) UPDATE

- 4 the Love of Bears video, "I Need a Lift" final cut is ready and trial run has 1300+ views, official launch November 5, 2015
- Riverside Camp Ground undergoing a new ownership
Action: GBS, RMOW and COS request meeting in January with campground to discuss bear and waste management.

RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER (RMOW) UPDATE

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- Bus shelters have old and very difficult to remove bear posters that are quite outdated Action: Heather to speak with Emma DaSanto about removal of old signage
- Preparing for welcome week events and Whistler Scoop
- Bear Smart Restaurant Program gaining momentum in slow season with great engagement from participants to far
- Signs around town to be removed by end of month and stored for use next year

OTHER BUSINESS

- COS Bear/large carnivore response policy is currently under review
- A time line has not been established
- Cub issue is a focus item for the review
- Big changes are not expected from the review
- COS will continue to take a proactive approach and apply the matrix in consideration of Whistler's Bear Smart community status.
- Province not supportive of creating separate matrix for Bear Smart communities
- Province more supportive of translocation of family units opposed to individuals. Lori noted that sub-adult individuals have a higher success rate for translocation, areas also need to be identified as suitable locations for both translocations and relocations
- Simon will inquire if public and GBS can provide input into policy review
- Policy section 1.2.3 supports opportunity for Whistler to have its own specific bear response plan, updates should be made to the current plan.

Action: Develop Whistler Bear Smart Community response plan in 2016, clarify interpretation of matrix definitions, align with provincial policy update.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Sylvia Dolson

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adjourn the November 4, 2015 Council meeting at 10:30 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: Sylvia Dolson