



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.
In the Decker Meeting Room
Public Works Building, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4**

PRESENT:

Heather Beresford, RMOW, Co-Chair
Sylvia Dolson, GBS, Co-Chair
Simon Gravel, Conservation Officer Service
Brittany Mueller, Conservation Officer Service
Lindsay DeBou, Bylaw Services
Kate Brandon, RMOW Bear Smart Program Assistant
Paul Kindree, Carney's Waste Systems
Sgt. Rob Knapton, RCMP
Arthur DeJong, WB
Sue Maxwell, RMOW Council
Lori Homstol
Nicole Fitzgerald, Member at Large

Claire Ruddy, AWARE, Public
Ellie Archer, Public

REGRETS:

Colin Hedderson, Member at Large

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Arthur DeJong
Seconded by Rob Knapton

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee agenda of December 16, 2015.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Sue Maxwell
Seconded by Rob Knapton

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the regular Black Bear Working Committee minutes of November 4, 2015.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICE (COS) UPDATE

- Brittany Mueller is new officer on the team. Welcome.
- Quiet since last meeting.
- Many orphan cubs. Critter Care full for the last month. Cubs must meet criteria in order to be sent to rehab facility.
- Cub placement protocol: find cub, review against criteria (condition, level of food conditioning, must be in decent shape), then speak with provincial veterinarian, discuss options, make decision. Cubs kept in dog crates until decision made.
- Previous COS direction on cubs was removed two years ago so Lower Mainland actions were consistent with rest of province.
- Large carnivore conflict policy under review and will include direction on cubs. Scheduled for release in spring 2016.
- Wildlife Branch manages care facilities. Unclear if it will increase spots available. Rehab centres funded privately through donations.

RCMP UPDATE

- 2 calls in November (Glacier Lane, Alpha Lake Park)

BYLAW SERVICES UPDATE

- Lindsay DeBou is new Bylaw Services Supervisor.
- L. DeBou sits on Day Lot Committee. More dual garbage/recycling cans are coming to Lots 4 & 5 by next summer.
- Calls down to 14 from 2014, especially garbage related calls
- Bylaw Services acts upon complaints so may not mean people are more bear smart, just that fewer calls came in.
- 14 animal attractant calls in 2015, 1 garbage at bus stop
- Nesters depot being upgraded in 2016.

CARNEY'S UPDATE

- Quiet
- Organics ban coming to RMOW in 2016 will present challenges to many businesses without the necessary space.
- Suggest COS outreach to Scouts Jamboree scheduled for WOP in summer 2016, July 2 – 8. 1000 people.
- Blackcomb Lodge upgrade is complete. Seems to be working, grease is secure. Will be challenging to do compost with the multiple users.

WHISTLER BLACKCOMB UPDATE

- Bears starting to hibernate before snow arrived, lack of food seemed to be trigger.
- Milestones restaurant received notice from CO Schumacher to improve garbage room security. Bars have been placed across. Milestones expressed interest in Bear Smart Restaurant program.

2015 DEBRIEF & 2016 PRELIMINARY PLANNING

- COS/RCMP spring training will be reviewed to ensure consistency, and ensure every member is reached and receives a clear message. Communications will be improved between COS and RCMP.
- GBS May Workshop identified 7 recommendations.
 - Emphasis on need for data for decision making. Suggest using GIS to identify hotspots and types of conflict.
 - Transportation for people without cars an ongoing priority. GBS launched the “I Need a Lift” FB campaign. WBAC suggested landlords must provide garbage service and include this in garbage bylaw amendment.
 - Review status of actions in Bear Hazard Assessment and the Management Plan. Update in 2016. (New issues: Callaghan bear jams; RCMP training; restaurant doors open; transportation to depots, etc.). Identify scope of hazard assessment and management plan updates. Add to January agenda.
ACTION: RMOW consider budgeting plan updates for 2016.
 - Discussed MMBC recycling program and potential for introducing neighbourhood or rotating pick up.
- GBS Literature review project provided education recommendations that can be added to the communications strategy. No new big themes/solutions identified during interviews.
- How to measure success? Bear conflict depends on many variables besides human behavior, so reduced bear deaths is not necessarily a measure of success.
- COS interaction with Bylaw Services has been reduced over the years.

ACTION: COS & Bylaw to meet and discuss working relationship.

- Bear Smart community response plan – WBAC and COS to discuss, clarify, and adjust for Whistler as much as possible. Communications flow chart would be helpful. Can't contradict provincial policy.

ACTION: H. Beresford to develop 2016 work plan time table.

- RMOW working on special events waste management information package for special events. Could be shared with other event organizers. Connect with SLRD for alignment with their waste management plan and communications program.
- Bear2Help video will be released by GBS in spring 2016.

OTHER BUSINESS

- N/A
- Next Meeting – January 20

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Sylvia Dolson

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adjourn the December 16, 2015
Regular meeting at 10:34 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: Sylvia Dolson