



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.**

**At Decker Room  
RMOW Public Works Yard**

**PRESENT:**

Sylvia Dolson, GBS, Co-Chair  
Sue Maxwell, RMOW Council  
Paul Kindree, Carney's Waste Systems  
Claire Ruddy, AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative  
Arthur DeJong, WB  
Ellie Archer, Public  
Lori Homstol, Public

**REGRETS:**

Heather Beresford, RMOW, Co-Chair, Recording Secretary  
Simon Gravel, Conservation Officer Service  
Colin Hedderson, Member at Large  
Nicole Fitzgerald, Member at Large  
Sgt. Rob Knapton, RCMP  
RMOW Bylaw Services

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by S. Maxwell  
Seconded by L. Homstol

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee agenda of May 11, 2016.

CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by P. Kindree  
Seconded by C. Ruddy

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee minutes of April 13, 2016.

CARRIED

## PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

### Updates

- Conservation Officer Service, RMOW Bylaw, RCMP –not present
- Whistler Blackcomb –cougar sighting, lots of deer in that area, no known bear issues, M. Allen bear counts lower than previous years, 3 cubs spotted in one report by staff
- Carney's Waste Systems- problematic commercial property, COS went to address those ones, may need an automated door for garbage room to resolve the issue, system seems to be working, cattle guard at transfer station reenergized, coyotes present, Carney's to check garbage around perimeter.
- Grizzly Bear Initiative –nothing new since last update
- AWARE –discussing RMOW process for waste space planning in light of upcoming changes
- GBS – problem in Callaghan with residents viewing bears, sounds like some bears are being fed. Idea: bear aversion at Callaghan but would require funding. COS does not have resources to patrol there. Need signage for RAPP line, ask people to report and ask for video. Work with tour leaders to ask them to report. Possible funding request for next year. Could see about meeting with HAW to discuss not sending visitors there. –working on bear video, request from WOP for signs, lots of enquiries, may look at asking TW for inclusion of bear smart info on maps to make people more aware of how to act in a bear smart community

**Recommendation:** RMOW to ask TW about inclusion of bear smart info, logo and website info on map.

Action: Sylvia to ask Arthur re bike park staff training

### Special Events Guidelines discussion (S. Maxwell)

- Committee felt the existing checklist is inadequate. It does not even utilize the existing resources that the RMOW has developed.
- SLRD has comprehensive event planning checklist.
- Waste plan can be simple: types of materials (and can they be reduced), # people, how long, is there camping, is there food? How to secure the bins
- AWARE has received funding for more zero waste stations and signage so this is a resource that will be available.
- Intent should be to get it on the events agenda, to help build capacity in the events team. Need a comprehensive list that the event organizers need to use. Can phase in requirements.
- The events are coming to our community and should match our values for a good long-term relationship. Important for brand of event as well as community reputation.
- We are a bear smart community

**Actions:** 1. Heather to share the Bear Smart special events guidelines recommendations with WBAC.

2. Paul and Claire meet with the FEA team to show the requested requirements and discuss what is expected (may be less onerous than they expect). Heather to request meeting.

Desired Outcome: an event in Whistler meets zero waste and bear smart goals (matching community values)

**Recommendation:** Request FEA team to develop a stronger set of requirements for the events and send them to the WBAC for review or discussion.

Bear Response Plan (L. Homstol)

- Lori is coordinating with Sylvia, Simon and Heather to complete this project this summer
- Goal is to create bear response plan including communications and available to all key responders
- 8 topics of interest to be included

Car-free Residents Subcommittee – update (S. Maxwell)

- have list of potential solutions and are now in the evaluation process
- looking at data availability
- need to arrange next meeting

RCMP/COS Non-lethal training – table until next meeting.

Letter to Council April 19, 2016 from Judy Fyfe and referred to WBAC for consideration:

- Pronounce a Whistler Bear Day – takes a fair amount of effort to organize it so would need a coordinator and volunteers, supportive of a Bear Day if someone can organize something but this committee has no capacity to organize such an event
- Create Council policy opposed to trophy hunting – would need to ask COS about definition of trophy hunting, would need to research what is presently allowed. WBAC response: this committee cannot develop a researched resolution but an outside party could recommend a resolution that has been researched, possibly one from existing organizations that work in that area like Raincoast Conservation Foundation and Pacific Wild.

Follow up on outstanding December actions:

**ACTION:** COS & Bylaw to meet and discuss working relationship. –not discussed

Follow up on April actions:

**ACTION:** S. Gravel determine GIS technician's capacity, timeframes and agreements. Provide update at next meeting–not discussed

**ACTION:** H. Beresford provide L. DeBou with bear messaging for day lot staff person. Action taken: Done

**ACTION:** COS will meet with golf course management. –not discussed

**ACTION:** COS will contact Riverside campground management for a meeting. – not discussed

**ACTION:** Determine if bear messaging can be included in the new Whistler Spirit video being prepared. (N. Fitzgerald) -underway

**ACTION:** GBS connect with Museum on its Nature 101 guide training program. -underway

**Ideas for future knowledge:** long-term berry availability (for example, big variation Green Acres at WB but bears not always coming when berries are there)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by S. Maxwell

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adjourn the May 11, 2016 Regular meeting at 10:30 a.m.

CARRIED

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CO-CHAIR: Sylvia Dolson