



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, July 13, 2016, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.**

**At Phalanx Room
RMOW Public Works Yard**

PRESENT:

Co-Chair, RMOW, H. Beresford
Co-Chair, Get Bear Smart, S. Dolson
RMOW Councillor S. Maxwell
Conservation Officer Service, Sgt. S. Gravel
WB, A. DeJong
Member at Large, N. Fitzgerald
RMOW Bylaw Services, C. Riess
RCMP, Sgt. R. Knapton
AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative C. Ruddy
Public, E. Archer
Public, L. Homstol
RMOW, K. Brandon

Bear Smart Program Assistant, Recording Secretary, A. Paris

REGRETS:

Carney's Waste Systems, P. Kindree
Member at Large, C. Hedderson

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Gravel
Seconded by H. Beresford

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear
Advisory Committee agenda of July 13, 2016.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by , L. Homstol
Seconded by S. Maxwell

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular
Whistler Bear Advisory Committee minutes of June 8, 2016.

CARRIED

VERBAL REPORTS

- Conservation Officer Service A discussion led by Sgt. S. Gravel regarding COS activities.
- Bears quiet, few sightings
 - Officer B. Mueller injured, off duty for 6 months. Extra CO being brought in for support
 - Signs put out at Lost Lake for bear bluff charging bikers, issue of dogs running with bikers. A. Paris will contact WAG and N. Fitzgerald will contact vets for information on how over-running may affect dogs' health.
- C. Reiss arrived at 8:36 a.m.*
- RMOW Bylaw Services A discussion led by C. Riess regarding RMOW Bylaw Services activities.
- 1 garbage call
- Whistler Blackcomb A discussion led by A. DeJong regarding WB activities.
- 1 bear approached Rendez-vous, otherwise quiet
 - Berry crop plentiful
- R. Knapton arrived 8:58 a.m.*
- RCMP A discussion led by Sgt. R. Knapton regarding RCMP activities.
- 1 call in Whistler and 3 in Pemberton in last month
- Carney's Waste Services Absent
- AWARE A discussion led by C. Ruddy regarding AWARE activities.
- Working for RMOW to research issues and help businesses manage upcoming changes to garbage bylaw.
- Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative A discussion led by C. Ruddy regarding Coast to Cascade Grizzly Bear Initiative activities
- Meeting with Whistler Olympic Park regarding trail signage with grizzly bear information
- RMOW A discussion led by L. Homstol regarding bear response plan

- Bear response plan being drafted, two meetings held with another planned for early August
- Meeting scheduled with COS, RMOW Communications, Parks, Environmental Stewardship, and Emergency Management to clarify response protocol

Sgt. R. Knaption left at 9:35 a.m.

Get Bear Smart Society

A discussion led by S. Dolson regarding Get Bear Smart activities.

- Bear Conflict Management plan update draft being prepared, review at August meeting

A discussion led by H. Beresford regarding 2 letters to Council regarding bear hunting.

- WBAC reviewed map of no hunting/bow hunting areas
- Given the heavy public use of the Callaghan road and valley, the COS and WBAC are concerned that hunting from the road is a safety risk to the public. Secondly, easy hunting access from road may result in a grizzly bear being shot if it is mistaken for a black bear.
- Changing hunting regulations outside of municipal boundaries requires a request to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO). Information on the process is on its website.
- International Bear Day is April 4th. Consider declaring in 2017 events.
- Consider adding continuation of 100m setback or more along roadside to Whistler Olympic Park
- COS will also continue to focus efforts on managing/reducing attractants along Callaghan Road and to discourage inappropriate bear viewing behaviour.

N. Fitzgerald left at 9:50 a.m.

MOTION: That WBAC recommends the RMOW submit an application to FLNRO to extend no hunting boundaries on the Callaghan Road from the municipal boundary to Whistler Olympic Park for the purposes of public safety and grizzly bear protection.

Moved by C. Ruddy (on behalf of AWARE)
Seconded by S. Dolson

CARRIED

- Bear Smart Program Assistant A discussion led by A. Paris regarding RMOW BSPA activities.
- Participating in Museum’s natural history program at Lost Lake one day a week.
 - Investigating the digitalization of the Bear Smart restaurant program training
 - Signs up in Lost Lake and Emerald for bear in area
 - Instagram contest to promote Bear Smart practices
- Get Bear Smart Society A discussion led by S. Dolson regarding Get Bear Smart Society activities.
- Infographic “ Don’t be a Jerry” used digitally for Facebook, Instagram and posters
 - Tourism Whistler maps being updated as part of map/sign update for 2017 release

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Sgt. S. Gravel

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adjourn the July 13, 2016 meeting at 10:33 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: Sylvia Dolson