

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE (AIC)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023, STARTING AT 9:00 A.M.

Remote Meeting held Via Zoom

PRESENT	*Mtgs. YTD (2)
Accommodation Sector, J. Cottier	2
Member at Large, S. Lawther	2
Member at Large, O. Rey	1
Tourism Whistler, M. Klau	2
Vail Resorts, E. Bayliffe	2
Vail Resorts, O. Dagan	
Whistler Chamber of Commerce, C. Maloney	2
Whistler Mature Action Community, D. Ashton	2
Whistler Mature Action Community, K. Krivel	1
Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, B. Smith	1
Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) Councillor, J. Morden	2
RMOW Accessibility Coordinator, S. Tipler	2
RMOW Manager of Planning – Policy and AIC Secretary (Acting), J. Rees	1
RMOW Planning Assistant and AIC Recording Secretary, C. Van Leeuwen	1
RMOW Library Director, M. Fenton	
RMOW Resort Parks Planner, A. Oja	

REGRETS	
RMOW Manager of Planning – Policy and AIC Secretary, C. Beaubien	1
Whistler Adaptive Sports Program	0
Whistler Community Services Society	1
* For organizations, the number reflects the number of meetings attended by the organizations' representatives within the calendar year.	

CALL TO ORDER

AIC recognized the Resort Municipality of Whistler is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lil'wat People, known in their language as Lil'wat7úl, and the Squamish People, known in their language as Skwxwú7mesh. We respect and commit to a deep consideration of their history, culture, stewardship, and voice.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by J. Morden
Seconded by O. Rey

That AIC adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of Wednesday, June 14, 2023.
CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by D. Ashton
Seconded by J. Morden

That AIC adopt the Regular Committee Minutes of February 1, 2023, as circulated.
CARRIED

COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillor Morden discussed the following regarding recent Council business:

1. Council was sent a letter from the Whistler Mature Action Community (MAC) regarding the walk for dementia. Several Councillors took part in the event.
2. There are several new buildings being constructed in Cheakamus Crossing. Council and staff are working with the Whistler Housing Authority (WHA) to ensure there are accessible units.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Meadow Park
Rejuvenation

- A. Oja discussed the following regarding the Meadow Park rejuvenation update:
1. Meadow Park serves many purposes for our community and visitors. It needs investment to repair and maintain infrastructure, as well as meet future programming opportunities.
 2. Phase 1 is fully funded and includes an upgrade of the spray park and playground.
 3. Future phases are funding dependent and represent potential opportunities to meet future needs.
 4. The second round of engagement on a proposed master plan closed early June.
 5. The master plan paints the vision for the park. Going through this exercise is important even though we only have funding for phase 1 as it will help guide future decisions and developments.
 6. The proposed master plan features:
 - a. Removing both ball diamonds (small diamonds are only useable for little league and there is existing infrastructure at Spruce Grove).
 - b. Creating a designated off-leash dog area in diamond #1 (dog owners are one of the highest user groups of the park).
 - c. Having open unprogrammed space in diamond #2, with a bookable space.
 - d. Creating a fully accessible loop around the perimeter/circuit with fitness hubs/station.
 - e. Adding a youth zone to create an additional neighbourhood scale youth area to complement the uses in the Village skate park.

- f. Improving riverfront access, with gentle tiered steps to the main part of the park.
 - g. Improving circulation (the plan presents two Valley Trail circulation options, either relocating the Valley Trail or retaining its current location as a shared path).
 - h. Improving the spray park (the current spray park is limited, and there is a desire to create more variety of play experiences for users of all ages, abilities, and stages of life).
 - i. Improving the playground (for instance, by incorporating options for all heights as well as passive and active play).
7. The next steps include working through detailed designs for phase 1 this summer. The RMOW will be requesting additional AIC feedback on the detailed design plans.

The AIC discussed:

1. The AIC prefers circulation option 1 regarding the Valley Trail placement. It is important to consider accessible physical barriers and visual cues to deter bikes from traveling through pedestrian paths.
2. There is an opportunity in the ground/water play area of the spray park to incorporate activities at varying heights to provide more accessible playing opportunities. It is important to select materials for park features and surface paving that are accessible.
3. The spray park sightlines are a challenge with the existing design. There are blocks in sightlines where you would be required to move around to keep your eyes on users. It is important to be conscious of sightlines from all heights and angles.
4. Staff should review the AIC's playground comments for 4500 Northlands as they relate to the Meadow Park discussion.
5. It is important to be mindful of the proximity of the playground to the river.
6. There is a need to consider access to the river, as the current plan mentions steps. This could include adding a ramp down to the river for accessibility, or accessible dock options for accessible kayakers.
7. The playground design should consider including plastic, or wheelchair friendly materials, for those who are wheelchair users.

Motion to support Meadow Park Rejuvenation Circulation Option 1

Moved by O. Rey

Seconded by D. Ashton

That AIC support option 1, moving the Valley Trail to the perimeter of the park, as noted in the Meadow Park Master Plan.

CARRIED

WPL Introduction

M. Fenton discussed the Whistler Public Library (WPL):

1. The role of the director is to ensure the WPL is in line with legislation, including the *Accessible BC Act*. Beyond compliance, the WPL should be an accessible space in the community and can always strive to improve.
2. The WPL director is a member of the InterLINK accessibility group, which is a group of library directors across the lower mainland that looks at accessibility action plans and applies the library/municipal facility lens.
3. The WPL will be undertaking a strategic planning update, which will specifically outline diversity, equity, inclusion, reconciliation, accessibility,

and a new Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) assessment.

4. The WPL will use AIC knowledge to ensure that future facility upgrades are accessible.

The AIC discussed:

1. Online pick-up is a great feature for people with disabilities.
2. The AIC will be able to provide input regarding the accessibility/inclusion components of the Strategic Plan.
3. It is important to have accessible formats more widely available/transparent to the public.
4. It is important to look into sensory accessibility, not just physical accessibility. It is also important to look at physical and virtual space.

AAP Progress

S. Tipler outlined the 2023, 2024 and 2025+ priority actions within the Accessibility Action Plan (AAP) and discussed the following about implementation progress:

1. The AAP presents 59 actions across 7 action areas.
2. The AAP received gold for Excellence in Policy Planning – Small Town & Rural Areas at the annual Planning Institute of BC conference.
3. The AAP is being used as a model for the BC Accessibility Hub.
4. Key progress to date includes:
 - a. Mapping & Signage: There have been updates to the Access Whistler Map, to parking signs with the dynamic wheelchair symbol, and to GIS with accessible parking and washroom details.
 - b. Training: There have been sessions on Inclusion and Workplace Safety Training, Accessibility Awareness Training, and RHFAC professional training.
 - c. IT & Communications: It is noted that Microsoft Teams provides automatic captioning.

The AIC discussed:

1. Details are needed on how the pedal wheelchair at Meadow Park Sports Centre can be booked by persons with disabilities.
2. Some of the Highway 99 crossing buttons need to be improved in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
3. Regarding persons with disabilities having priority for WHA accessible units, the WHA should consider updating the criteria for classifying an “accessible unit.”
4. It is important that non-physical disabilities are also recognized. For instance, 80 per cent of Whistler Adaptive Sports Program athletes have cognitive disabilities.

OTHER BUSINESS

S. Tipler noted that the Access Whistler Map has been updated. Organizations were encouraged to update the links and documents on their websites.

O. Rey commented regarding Rainbow Park and whether consideration is being given to rerouting the Valley Trail around the park (like what is proposed for Meadow Park) to calm traffic through the park.

1. J. Morden responded that the RMOW is increasing the trail width and posting speed limits on the Valley Trail. The new EVO program will slow bikes automatically as they enter the park (as speed is regulated through most parks).

O. Rey commented regarding the Valley Trail and whether there is consideration to separate e-bike/bike users from pedestrians, like in Vancouver.

1. S. Tipler responded that given the cost, space and ownership of land, it is not feasible at this time.

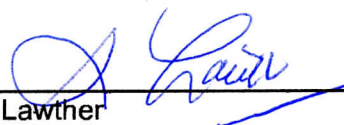
K. Krivel commented on MAC's request for Whistler to become recognized as an age-friendly community.

1. J. Rees confirmed the RMOW has received this request and it is being considered.


MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by D. Ashton
Seconded by O. Rey

That the AIC meeting of Wednesday, June 14, 2023, be terminated at 10:54 a.m.
CARRIED



S. Lawther
Chair



J. Rees
Acting Secretary