



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION  
COMMITTEE (AIC)  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023, STARTING AT 9:15 A.M.

Meeting held at the Skwxwú7mesh Lilwat7úl Cultural Centre, Istken Hall  
4584 Blackcomb Way, Whistler

### MORNING CIRCLE at 9:30 A.M.

PRESENT	*Mtgs. YTD (3)
Accommodation Sector, J. Cottier	3
Member at Large, O. Rey	2
Tourism Whistler, M. Klau	3
Whistler Chamber of Commerce, L. Walker	3
Whistler Mature Action Community (MAC), S. Johnston	2
Whistler Mature Action Community, D. Ashton	3
Whistler Adaptive Sports Program, S. Milstein	1
Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, B. Smith	2
Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) Councillor, J. Morden	3
RMOW Accessibility Coordinator, S. Tipler	3
RMOW Manager of Planning – Policy and AIC Secretary, C. Beaubien	2
RMOW Planning Assistant and AIC Recording Secretary, C. Van Leeuwen	2
Whistler Museum, D. Wylie	

REGRETS	
Member at Large, S. Lawther	2
Whistler Community Services Society	1
Vail Resorts	2
*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 Lilwat7úl, 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 S. Johnston  
Seconded by S. Milstein

**That** AIC adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of Wednesday, September 6, 2023.

CARRIED

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by S. Milstein  
Seconded by S. Johnston

**That** AIC adopt the Regular Committee Minutes of June 14, 2023, as circulated.

CARRIED

## **COUNCIL UPDATE**

Councillor Morden discussed the following regarding recent Council business:

1. There will be five accessible/adaptable units in the lot 2b development in Cheakamus Crossing Phase II. The architect is working on the design and consulting with CMHC accessibility consultants. Moving forward, all accessible units will be built to the same accessibility standards.
2. Two people on the Whistler Housing Authority (WHA) waitlist have been identified as needing accessible units. The WHA will reach out to the AIC, Whistler Adaptive Sports and MAC closer to building occupancy to see if organizations know residents in need of accessible units.
3. Councillor Morden will meet with BC Transit regarding the potential of a HandyDART service in our community.
4. The Meadow Park master plan update will go to the Committee of the Whole on September 26.

The AIC discussed:

1. There is a need to consider eligibility requirements for the WHA accessible/adaptable units list. People are not aware that these units are an option as there is no recognition of these units on the WHA website. Outstanding questions include: are there more people that should be on the list, and are seniors eligible to move into the accessible units? There may need to be consideration of an individual's declining ability to move into more appropriate accessible housing before it reaches a crisis point.
2. It is important to have an accessible taxi service available 24 hours a day. Even if a HandyDART service is established in Whistler, accessible transportation options will be required for the hours HandyDART will not be operating and for visitors who are not eligible for HandyDART service.
3. Spinal Cord Injury BC reported difficulties obtaining accessible taxis the weekend of August 18. It is important to address accessible taxi availability in Whistler and collect ongoing data about availability.

## **PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

Whistler Museum

D. Wylie discussed the following regarding accessibility considerations for a new museum facility:

1. A Whistler Museum Building Committee was formed in January 2023.

2. The current designs are from 2019. The committee will update the designs as accessibility was not a major focus of the preliminary designs. The updated designs will bring accessibility to the forefront.
3. The committee is working to determine what accessibility criteria needs to be met. The new museum aims to be built to the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) gold standards.
4. The committee is focused on siting characteristics such as front entrance location and access. This has the biggest impact on building design.
5. Other key accessibility considerations are: providing accessible drop-off and parking options; mitigating weather impacts; avoiding long inclined walkways; providing clearance requirements for a HandyDART-type service to fit under a covered area; and addressing snow load considerations for covered areas and impacts to surrounding areas.
6. Accessibility and circulation inside the building will be considered once siting has been addressed. The emphasis is on a cohesive, accessible design to ensure flow and amenity placements are not afterthoughts.
7. Certain features and designs may impact Florence Peterson Park. The committee will seek to work with the RMOW to address these considerations.

The AIC discussed:

1. Cultural spaces should be welcoming and inviting for everyone.
2. Sightlines should be clear and connected. Visual and tactical cues aid navigation.
3. Washrooms should be inclusive (non-gendered) and accessible.
4. RHFAC is not the only option. There are other resources available to ensure the new museum is built to accessible standards.
5. The museum should focus on developing a good building design now to avoid the need to modify or retrofit it later.
6. It would be valuable to speak with the SLCC to learn about their experiences designing a cultural space.

Valley Trail

D. Ashton discussed seating on the Valley Trail:

1. Increasing the seating on the Valley Trail is an action in the Age-friendly Action Plan.
2. There is existing seating at Blueberry Drive, just off the highway. Otherwise, seating is only available at parks.
3. Creative seating forms, such as logs, trunks and rocks, should be explored in addition to benches.
4. RMOW Parks Planning asked for assistance in identifying where seating is needed. MAC is taking the lead in mapping seating areas and providing feedback on areas to add seating and rest areas.
5. The next step is for MAC to connect with its membership for suggestions of areas along the Valley Trail that could benefit from a rest stop. RMOW Parks Planning is providing maps with existing locations.

The AIC discussed:

1. It is important to consider a multitude of seating forms as backrests and armrests are beneficial for those needing more stability.
2. There should be space for bikes, buggies, wheelchairs, etc. to sit adjacent to a bench.

3. It will be valuable to understand the distances between seating placements along the Valley Trail. There should be no further than 1 km between seating locations.
4. It is also important to consider: opportunities connected to existing infrastructure, such as at post boxes; low cost and low maintenance options; and tourism needs at hotspots that could benefit from rest stops, in addition to the locations that residents suggest.

#### AAP and BC Grants Program Progress

S. Tipler discussed the following about the implementation progress of the Accessibility Action Plan (AAP) and the progress of BC Grants Program accessibility improvements:

1. Staff will present an update on AAP implementation to Council on September 12, along with AAP presentations to each RMOW division.
2. The RMOW received funding through the BC Grants Program for improvements at the Maury Young Arts Center (MYAC), Myrtle Philip Community Centre and Whistler Olympic Plaza washrooms. The recommendations following the site assessments are being implemented.
3. A universal washroom will be added to the Myrtle Phillip Community Centre. This is also supported by federal grant funding and is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.
4. A height-adjustable lectern is scheduled to arrive at MYAC by September 8 and assisted listening devices have been ordered.
5. There will be minor upgrades to the Whistler Olympic Plaza washrooms, including changes to toilet paper holders and adding backrests to toilets.
6. Staff will create public 'know before you go' videos in advance of the Invictus Games. The videos will live on beyond the games, with more planned to be produced post-Invictus Games, including highlighting sensory-friendly places.
7. The inventory of ramp access signs is now complete. All signs will be reprinted and replaced this year. The size of the signs will remain the same and there will be more consistency in how they are presented.
8. Additional staff training has been completed. Two accessibility awareness sessions were offered through the BC Grants Program funding, with an additional three offered through RMOW Human Resources funding. Outside organizations were invited to attend these training sessions.
9. A new feedback channel is available on the RMOW website. An ASL video with voice-over and captioning is being produced and will be added to the website once complete.
10. Staff contacted the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to advocate for improvements along Highway 99, specifically the pedestrian crossings and ensuring there is enough time to cross.
11. New EV stations are being installed. An accessible EV station will be ready this fall, with more to come the following year.

The AIC discussed:

1. It would be useful to share the 'know before you go' videos and training resources so businesses know how to prepare for the Invictus Games.
2. Businesses are interested in accessibility awareness training. The RMOW will share contact information with interested parties.
3. The Whistler Chamber of Commerce is interested in making accessibility improvements to its meeting space. The RMOW's Accessibility Coordinator will visit the space as a starting point.

4. The Marketplace parking lot has accessibility challenges. One ramp is not accessible given the siting of the current parking stalls, which block the curb-cut if a vehicle is parked in the space adjacent to the accessible parking space.
5. It is important to consider inclusion when it comes to courtesy parking spaces. If there are stalls for accessibility, parents and children, what about parking for elders and seniors? Culturally, elders are held to the highest respect. A challenge is how to manage courtesy parking when a parking pass is not required.
6. It is important to consider the cultural significance of locations and places when discussing locations for benches, rest stops and parking.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

B. Smith requested feedback on the accessibility of the SLCC in advance of upcoming upgrades.

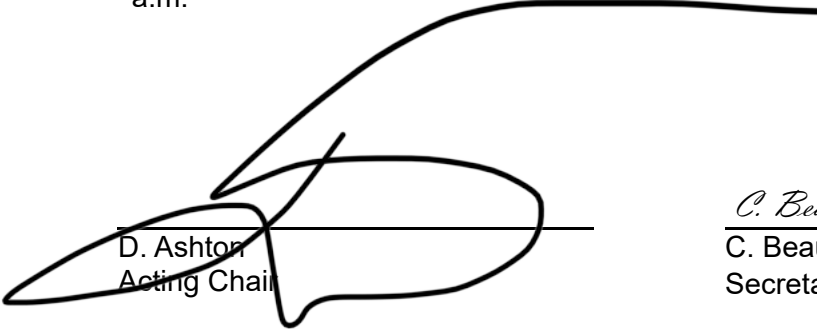
1. The AIC discussed: adding navigational signage to the elevator and other accessible features, like the automatic door opener at the main entrance, for easier wayfinding; adding an automatic door opener to the third-floor door; and adding a curb cut on either end of the drop-off zone on Lorimer Road.

### **MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by O. Rey  
Seconded by S. Johnston

**That** the AIC meeting of Wednesday, September 6, 2023, be terminated at 10:45 a.m.

CARRIED



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D. Ashton  
Acting Chair

*C. Beaubien*  
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C. Beaubien  
Secretary