



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION  
COMMITTEE (AIC)  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023, STARTING AT 9:00 A.M.  
Remote Meeting held via Zoom

PRESENT	*Mtgs. YTD (4)
Member-at-Large, O. Rey	3
Member-at-Large, S. Lawther	3
Tourism Whistler, M. Klau	4
Whistler Chamber of Commerce, L. Walker	4
Whistler Mature Action Community (MAC), L. Stroshin	3
Whistler Mature Action Community, D. Ashton	4
Whistler Adaptive Sports Program, S. Milstein	2
Whistler Community Services Society, J. Dickinson	2
Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) Councillor, J. Morden	4
RMOW Manager of Planning – Policy and AIC Secretary, C. Beaubien	3
RMOW Library Director, M. Fenton	1
RMOW Accessibility Coordinator, S. Tipler	4
RMOW Planning Assistant and AIC Recording Secretary, C. Van Leeuwen	3
RMOW Resort Parks Planner, A. Oja	

REGRETS	
Accommodation Sector	3
Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre	2
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 Líl'wat People, known in their language as Líl'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 D. Ashton  
Seconded by O. Rey

**That** AIC adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

CARRIED

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by O. Rey  
Seconded by L. Walker

**That** AIC adopt the Regular Committee Minutes of September 6, 2023, as circulated.

CARRIED

## **COUNCIL UPDATE**

Councillor Morden discussed the following regarding recent Council business:

1. Council attended the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) conference. Councillors met with provincial ministers, the Federal Secretariat on Early Learning and Child Care, the Attorney General and the Premier. Topics discussed included emergency management, housing, child care and transit. The Whistler Housing Authority (WHA) was shared as an example of how well the municipality is addressing housing.
2. Council will be attending the 2024 budget community open house.
3. Council and staff continue to work with the WHA to ensure there are accessible units in new developments.

## **PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

A. Oja discussed the following regarding Meadow Park rejuvenation:

1. Staff shared a community update in September, including a 'What We Heard' summary and the draft Meadow Park master plan.
2. Option 1 was the preferred Valley Trail alignment from the second round of engagement. This was the same option endorsed by the AIC.
3. Phase 1, which includes the spray park upgrade and playground, is advancing to construction. The rest of the master plan is still conceptual and helps create a vision for the long-term future of the park.
4. Construction will be contained and fenced so the remainder of the park will still be useable. Phase 1 is expected to be complete in spring 2025. The spray park and playground will be unavailable for one year. During Phase 1 construction, the fence will be removed from the south ball diamond and the north diamond will be fully fenced in for a dedicated off-leash area.
5. Next steps for the draft master plan include:
  - a. A trial of the relocation of baseball to Spruce Grove Park for the 2024 season. The existing diamonds will be retained for this season. After the 2024 season, staff will discuss lessons learned and areas for improvement.
  - b. An exploration of future funding opportunities for the remainder of the master plan components, to be considered in future budget discussions.

Meadow Park  
Rejuvenation

6. Accessibility and circulation features in the Phase 1 design include:
  - a. The addition of more inclusive play features to the design following community feedback. This is more than physical accessibility features and includes features for neurodivergent park users. A consultant will be providing proposals for more neurodivergent elements.
  - b. The rerouting of the Valley Trail to the outside of the park to increase safety. This includes a paved path with gravel shoulders, fencing between the Valley Trail and playground, and a middle pathway made of concrete pavers that will create a flush uniform surface.
  - c. The spray park surface material will be cast-in-place concrete, which is standard in spray parks.
  - d. The playground will be a poured-in-place rubber surfacing with concrete edges. This meets accessibility standards.
7. Staff are working on a broader Parks Strategy for Whistler. Future public engagement opportunities will be announced as the project advances.
8. The next steps include advancing the draft design to a detailed design and putting it out to tender, with an anticipated construction start in early spring 2024.

The AIC discussed:

1. The AIC is generally appreciative of the addition of more inclusive play features and is excited by the general progress of the project.
2. It is important to consider connectivity and flow from the parking lots to the park and playground features. The current path from the parking lots to the park is not accessible. Consider paving a path from the parking lots to the park and/or make more accessible paths for strollers, wheelchairs, etc.
3. It is important to consider providing a structured play space, such as creating an interim playground and shade structure on the south field, in addition to informal play areas during the construction closure.
4. It is important to consider seating near the spray park, with clear sightlines, while staying dry.
5. The seating areas should consider having a designated shade component, to protect users from the elements and support parents feeding their children.
6. There should be seating with backrests and hard surfaces beside the benches so wheelchair users can sit beside others on the benches.
7. It is important to consider sightlines for the play structures.

TOR Update & AIC  
Membership

S. Tipler discussed updates to the terms of reference (TOR) and committee composition:

1. Libraries are now considered accessible organizations in the *Accessible BC Act*. The Director of the Whistler Public Library (WPL) has been added to the AIC TOR, as a non-voting member. The updated TOR was adopted by Council. This change ensures the WPL is compliant and furthers accessibility initiatives at the WPL.
2. Member-at-large positions will be recruited in January. There will be advertisements in the Pique and on the RMOW website. Nominated individuals will be selected by Council for a two-year term.

## Accessible Taxi Usage

S. Tipler discussed monitoring accessible taxi usage:

1. Staff will be contacting Resort Cabs to gain a better understanding of the services they provide and to support monitoring the need and demand for accessible taxi services.

The AIC discussed:

1. Accessible cabs are expensive to operate. The Passenger Transportation Board has funding available to support accessible taxi services.
2. Whistler Adaptive Sports Program (WASP) is not allowed to transport participants. An accessible vehicle has been offered; however, WASP does not have the capacity to run that service.
3. Whistler Community Services Society (WCSS) offers the Helping Hands transfer program, which is volunteer run.

## OTHER BUSINESS

S. Tipler provided an update on the Accessibility Action Plan implementation:

1. At the Myrtle Philip Community Centre, the universal washrooms are complete and additional accessible parking spots have been added.
2. The height adjustable lectern has been installed at the Maury Young Arts Centre and enhanced listening devices have been ordered.
3. Minor upgrades to the Whistler Olympic Plaza washrooms, including changes to toilet paper holders and adding backrests to toilets, will be completed by the end of the year.

The following updates were provided by AIC members:

1. D. Ashton continues to work on the Valley Trail seating map with MAC.
2. The Whistler Chamber of Commerce continues to work with the Invictus Games team on planning for 2025.
3. The WPL is beginning their strategic planning process for the next year, which will include a space needs assessment.
4. WASP is hiring a new executive director and is hopeful to have the role filled in the new year.
5. Tourism Whistler is building a new Go Whistler tour. It will be an accessible tour in Creekside.
6. The AIC will be moving to a regular meeting schedule. Meetings will be held the first Wednesday of February, June (in-person) and November from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
7. O. Rey discussed a private business that inquired about funding opportunities to make accessible upgrades.
  - a. The AIC discussed funding availability is normally for non-profits or government agencies.
  - b. L. Walker shared a [link to the Enabling Accessibility Fund](#).
  - c. Private businesses are encouraged to explore the *Accessible BC Act* or Rick Hansen Foundation for accessible resources.

**MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by D. Ashton  
Seconded by O. Rey

**That** the AIC meeting of Wednesday, November 1, 2023, be terminated at 10:26 a.m.

CARRIED

  
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S. Lawther  
Chair

*C. Beaubien*  
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C. Beaubien  
Secretary