

# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE (AIC)  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024, STARTING AT 9:00 A.M.  
Remote Meeting held via Zoom**

PRESENT	*Mtgs. YTD (1)
Member-at-Large, O. Rey	1
Member-at-Large, S. Lawther	1
Tourism Whistler, M. Klau	1
Whistler Chamber of Commerce, C. Maloney	1
Whistler Mature Action Community (MAC), D. Ashton	1
Accommodation Sector, J. Cottier	1
Whistler Adaptive Sports Program (WASP), S. Milstein	1
Whistler Community Services Society (WCSS), J. Dickinson	1
Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) Councillor, J. Morden	1
RMOW Manager of Planning – Policy and AIC Secretary, C. Beaubien	1
RMOW Library Director, M. Fenton	1
RMOW Accessibility Coordinator, S. Tipler	1
RMOW Planning Assistant and AIC Recording Secretary, C. Van Leeuwen	1
Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025, N. Clark	
Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025, C. Cogger	

REGRETS	
MAC (Second Representative)	
Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre	
Vail Resorts	
*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 J. Dickinson

**That** AIC adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

CARRIED

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by J. Cottier  
Seconded by J. Dickinson

**That** AIC adopt the Regular Committee Minutes of November 1, 2023, as circulated.

CARRIED

## **COUNCIL UPDATE**

Councillor Morden discussed the following regarding recent Council business:

1. Council approved a housing agreement for 1475 Mount Fee Road in Cheakamus Crossing. The project features 104 units and accessibility will be at the forefront of the development.
2. Council recently announced new fee-for-service agreements.
3. Council heard from a large delegation of older adult residents at the February 6, 2024 Regular Council meeting regarding a need for a community space to interact and socialize. Council will meet with MAC at the Whistler Racket Club on March 7 to hear about ideas, needs and budget implications.
4. Council will be attending an Invictus Games event to meet with the Invictus leaders.
5. Council re-appointed Sue Lawther and Olivia Rey as AIC members-at-large for the 2024-2026 term.
6. Councillor Morden joined the Whistler Public Library (WPL) Board, replacing Councillor Forsyth.

## **PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

C. Cogger and N. Clark discussed the following regarding the upcoming Invictus Games:

1. The team is currently busy with the participating nations camps, welcoming athletes from 19 nations. The camps are an opportunity for participants to test the winter sports, which will be a first time for most participants.
2. The Invictus Games team will be meeting with Vail Resorts and Whistler Sport Legacies to discuss venue accessibility improvements. The Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) will be supporting the venue assessments.
3. Volunteer [registrations](#) open February 8, 2024.
4. 'One Year To Go' activations will be underway in Mountain Square from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on February 12 to 16, 2024. This will be an opportunity to deepen knowledge of equipment used, try street curling, and connect with the community. Celebrations will continue in Vancouver, with a free Unconquered Sports Day at the Seaforth Armoury on February 19, 2024.

Invictus Games  
Update

The AIC and the presenters discussed:

1. There is general excitement that these Games are coming to Whistler. This event is reminiscent of the spirit and excitement in the lead up to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. This is a special experience, and everyone is encouraged to connect with the competitors, who are open to sharing their experiences.
2. In the lead up to the Games, there will be training and/or packages for businesses to support guests and athletes, with more details to come.
3. There will be opportunities for the public to connect with the athletes. Work is underway on the final schedule. Consideration could be given to including “meet and greet” opportunities by country and/or sport.

Know-before-you-go  
Videos

S. Tipler discussed the status of producing know-before-you-go videos:

1. Staff are working with the Invictus Games team regarding the videos to be produced in advance of the Games. These include:
  - a. Parking in the accessible spots at the Sundial Hotel;
  - b. Getting to the accessible washrooms in the Carleton Lodge, the closest public washrooms for athletes and the public; and
  - c. Getting to a sensory-friendly space, such as ‘A Timeless Circle’ in front of the Maury Young Arts Centre.
2. Staff are open to feedback on the videos. These are the initial videos to be produced.
3. Vail Resorts could produce videos about access to the mountains and its facilities. It is hoped that all videos will be of a consistent feel and branding.

The AIC discussed:

1. These videos will be shared across multiple RMOW channels, as well as with local partners for distribution through their respective networks.
2. The videos will be a great resource beyond the Invictus Games. WASP has created some of these videos, however they are tailored to the WASP programs.
3. Consideration could be given to having accessible portable toilettes at Mountain Square as an alternative to the Carleton Lodge, and creating videos for access to accessible washrooms beyond the Carleton Lodge.
4. The WPL will increase messaging about its accessibility.
5. Consideration could be given to developing a template or checklist for other businesses to create similar videos to help share the workload and advance our accessibility goals. This could include what questions to be asking, language to be used, and other considerations while filming.
6. It is important to ensure local talent and voices are included in the videos and that these individuals are persons with disabilities. Captioning will be included in the videos as well as audio descriptions for people with low vision. In the future, staff will investigate having the voiceovers in different languages.
7. There is an upcoming national mapping event being hosted by Access Now, a crowd-sourcing accessibility mapping platform, on March 24. S. Tipler will share AccessNow resources with the Whistler Chamber of Commerce for distribution to their membership.

## **OTHER BUSINESS AND MEMBER UPDATES**

D. Ashton provided an update on the age-friendly information hub:

1. MAC is updating its website, which should be completed soon.
2. The information hub was originally intended only for the MAC membership, but will now be shared on the public facing MAC website.
3. MAC will seek AIC feedback on the information hub once it is live.

The AIC discussed:

1. S. Tipler is available to support MAC and can be a resource to help with the development of the information hub.

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

1. Staff training will continue this year.
2. Staff continue to work with internal teams to move action items forward. Certain items are outside RMOW control, such as the crossings on Highway 99.
3. The accessibility improvements being made through the RHF B.C. Accessibility Grants Program continue to move forward.

The following updates were provided by AIC members:

1. The WPL is launching its strategic planning process. It will complete interviews with organizations to help inform future community engagement and to ensure the future strategic plan speaks to everyone in the community. The WPL will also be completing a revised space needs assessment.
2. WCSS staff recently completed neurodivergent training.
3. WCSS recognized the WPL for offering a warming centre during the day and the team collaboration for the extreme weather overnight shelter. WCSS reached capacity the first night and had to triple capacity to meet the community need.
4. Last month, WCSS facilitated an annual fundraiser, with approximately 150 people in attendance, to raise funds to support its program and service offerings. The MAC representative spoke at the event regarding the lack of community meeting space and need for connection. The current WCSS space was originally designed to have a community space, however, WCSS is running out of space in its building. The WCSS is breaking records in providing outreach services (mental health and foodbank).
5. MAC reiterated the community need for a gathering space. The Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church and Whistler Racket Club are currently providing space to MAC.
6. The Hotel Sector is working on evacuation plans in partnership with the RMOW.
7. WASP welcomed its new Executive Director, Sian Blyth. For the Invictus Games, WASP is providing some of the adaptive equipment as well as accessibility information and infrastructure.
8. The next AIC meeting will be the start of the 2024-2026 term. A chair and co-chair will be appointed at that meeting, along with outlining the goals of the committee over the course of the next term.

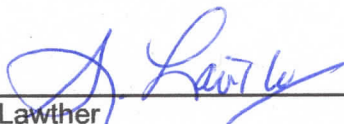
9. S. Tipler provided an update on accessible taxi service in Whistler. RMOW staff are in contact with the Province regarding accessible taxi regulations and licensing.
10. Councillor Morden continues to advocate to BC Transit regarding the possibility of HandyDART service in Whistler.

**MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by D. Ashton  
Seconded by J. Cottier

**That** the AIC meeting of Wednesday, February 7, 2024, be terminated at 10:32 a.m.

CARRIED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
S. Lawther  
Chair

*C. Beaubien*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Beaubien  
Secretary