



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAY LONG WEEKEND COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022, STARTING AT 2:00 P.M.

Remote Meeting

Held via Zoom – Link available at www.whistler.ca/may-long-weekend-committee

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (1)
Chair, RMOW General Manager, Corporate and Community Services, Ted Battiston	1
Accommodation Sector Representative, Doug Andrews	1
Community Member at Large Representative, Adam Francis	1
Liquor Primary Sector Representative, Terry Clark	1
Restaurant Sector Representative, Kevin Wallace	1
RCMP Representative, S. Sgt. Sasha Banks	1
RCMP Representative, Cpl. Nathan Miller	1
RMOW Manager, Protective Services, Lindsay DeBou	1
RMOW Manager, Village Events and Animation, Bob Andrea	1
RMOW Protective Services Planning Analyst, Kevin Creery	1
Recording Secretary, Ben Sullivan	1

REGRETS	
Chair, Councillor Ralph Forsyth	
Retail Merchants Sector Representative, Nicole Shannon	

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by L. DeBou
Seconded by T. Clark

That the May Long Weekend Committee adopt the May Long Weekend Committee Agenda of Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by T. Clark
Seconded by D. Andrews

That the May Long Weekend Committee adopt the May Long Weekend Committee Minutes of Wednesday, April 21, 2021 as circulated.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Past Summary and
2022 Plans

A review by the Manager of Protective Services, L. DeBou, of the 2021 May Long Weekend and a round table discussion regarding plans for 2022.

May Long Weekend Review: the focus continued to be a highly visible presence of public safety officials including:

- Bylaw department hours adjusted to meet community needs.
- RCMP extended shifts and worked with Lower Mainland Resource Teams.
- Family oriented programming was a focus.
- For 2020 and 2021 the occupancy rates were much lower due to the pandemic. Primary focus during this time was education on COVID safety. Day-trippers increased from a low in 2020 to 2021.
- May Long Weekend 2022 will be noticeably busier. As of April 11th bookings are only down by 15% compared to the last non-pandemic year of 2019 and up 145% compared to 2021.

Protective Services: Park and Trail ambassadors have started proactive work on e-bikes to educate public on park etiquette. Optimizing presence in parks and village. Protective Services will be focused on:

- Mitigating open liquor possession
- Off leash dogs
- Being a point of contact for resort guests.

Paid parking returns in parks on May 15th in advance of the long weekend.

Liquor Primary Sector: Liquor sector has a head of safety and the team will be meeting with the RCMP to ensure close participation. Liquor Sector team is also in communication with the Gang Task Force from VPD regarding MLW activities. The base of mountain establishments and dance bars will have security. Preparing for a mostly normal, pre-pandemic level of visitation and taking extra safety measures accordingly.

Community Member at Large (WB): WB is planning to mimic the response of Whistler closing day.

- Rebranding to a family focused weekend of activities, dropping the name "Gaper Day" to be more inclusive and focus less on partying and more on family friendly activities.
- Designing plans to limit mass gatherings, ease the dispersal of groups and be able to move guests around the resort appropriately.

- A number of WB managers are expected to sign up as a presence such as they did for Whistler closing day.
- Bag checks will happen on final days of Blackcomb Mountain operations.
- Discussion over extending mountain closing by one day to prevent issues on the mountain and in the village.

Restaurant Sector: Expecting a changing clientele over May Long Weekend, similar to Easter Weekend. Have encouraged restaurants to have a front door presence to identify intoxication. Will ask RCMP to assist with a presence near restaurants as visibility is a great help on preventing trouble. Staff are focused on Serving It Right guidelines and the importance of not serving minors or over serving patrons, etc.

RCMP: The watch commander will have a cell phone for restaurant managers to call in order to expedite response times. RCMP members attended closing day for Whistler Mountain and are currently planning for Blackcomb Mountain closing. Expect an increase in police presence in the evenings on the village strolls and on the roads over the MLW. Sobriety checks will be conducted on the highway in partnership with BC Highway Patrol. Will work with hotel sector on the issue of parents checking in their children and then leaving.

Gang activity in Whistler has been trending upwards in the last 5 years. Meeting with Surrey Police Gang Enforcement and other stakeholders next week to address not only MLW but the summer plan as well. RCMP members will be on the mountain during the closing days of Blackcomb. Will work with Protective Services on combined enforcement efforts. Some establishments may be closing early as they have in previous years.

Accommodation Sector: Hotels will continue with individual practices such as:

- Age restrictions for room bookings.
- Conduct policies to sign at time of check-in.
- Guests may be required to register upon check-in and sign in at night to avoid bringing parties back to the hotel property.

Packaging a family friendly event into a room booking may help mitigate rowdy crowd room sales. Heaviest check-in times tend to be around 4:00pm with the heaviest load-in expected on Friday and Saturday of the long weekend; Sunday expected to be busy as well.

RMOW Festivals, Events & Animations (FE&A): Historically MLW has always been a weekend of focus. There have been increases in gang activity as noted previously. The out spill of revelers into local neighbourhoods may be a concern. Focus is on family programming with the hiatus of GO Festival.

Whistler Children's
Festival

A presentation by Manager of Village Animation and Events, B. Andrea, regarding the Whistler Children's Festival 2022.

GO Fest is on hiatus for 2022; rebranding and realigning it with Tourism Whistler promotional themes for May and June. Whistler Children's Festival

(WCF) has requested to move to the last two weekends in May. FE&A will be assessing how the festival goes with these new dates. WCF is a Whistler festival of 39 years. Programming will take place along the Cultural Connector and there will be complimentary characters in the village. Public messaging will be focused on a family friendly gathering. WCF events will be scheduled during the daytime. Festival is planned for the Saturday and Sunday of the MLW. There may be indoor programming as well but these will not go on later than other events with early evening conclusions.

OTHER BUSINESS

No updates on when the transit strike will end, prudent to plan for no transit during the weekend. Local ride-share companies will be available. RCMP will reach out to collaborate on safe transit options for village patrons.

WB is running two staff busses during the strike. Staff trucks for Squamish and Pemberton car-pooling are being reinstated. Discussion on possible collaboration with WB on staff bus use for restaurants and hotels as staffing difficulties persist.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by T. Battiston

Seconded by A. Francis

That the May Long Weekend Committee meeting of Tuesday, April 19, 2022 be terminated at 2:58 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair, RMOW General
Manager, Corporate and
Community Services, T.
Battiston

Recording Secretary, B. Sullivan