



**REGULAR MEETING OF
MAY LONG WEEKEND COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 1:30 p.m.
Remote Meeting via Zoom

For information on how to participate: <http://www.whistler.ca/may-long-weekend-committee>

	Mtgs: YTD (1)
PRESENT:	
Chair, RMOW General Manager, Corporate Services and Public Safety, Ted Battiston	1
Councillor, Jessie Morden	1
Accommodation Sector Representative, Pablo Contreras	1
Community Member at Large Representative, Adam Francis	1
Liquor Primary Sector Representative, Terry Clark	1
RCMP Representative, S. Sgt. Sascha Banks	1
Restaurant Sector Representative, Kevin Wallace	1
Retail Merchants Sector Representative, Shane Holland	1
RMOW Protective Services Representative, Lindsay DeBou	1
Recording Secretary, Rose Lawrence	1

ABSENT:

STAFF

PRESENT:	RMOW Emergency Program Coordinator, Bob Manson	1
	RMOW Manager Village Animation and Events, Bob Andrea	1

OTHERS: RCMP Operations Sergeant for Whistler, Nathan Miller

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ted Battiston recognized the Resort Municipality of Whistler is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lílwat People, known in their language as Liíwat7úl, and the Squamish People, known in their language as Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh. We respect and commit to a deep consideration of their history, culture, stewardship and voice.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved By RMOW Protective Services Representative, L. DeBou
Seconded By Restaurant Sector Representative, K. Wallace

That the May Long Weekend Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting agenda of Wednesday, April 12, 2023 as circulated as amended to add a discussion regarding additional meetings for other high visitation weekends.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By Restaurant Sector Representative, K. Wallace

Seconded By RMOW Protective Services Representative, L. DeBou

That the May Long Weekend Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting minutes of Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 May Long Weekend 2022 Review

An update by the Manager of Protective Services, Lindsay DeBou was given regarding a summary of the 2022 May Long Weekend. It was notably busier than 2020 and 2021 (pandemic years); accommodation occupancy as reported by Tourism Whistler was 10% lower than 2019 levels and much higher than 2020 and 2021. Day lots were full, indicating many day-trippers. Bylaw department hours adjusted to meet community needs; RCMP extended shifts too. Family oriented programming was a focus and was successful.

4.2 May Long Weekend 2023 RMOW Programming Update

An update by the Manager of Village Animation and Events, Bob Andrea was given regarding programming for the 2023 May Long Weekend. The (Arts Whistler-produced) Whistler Children’s Festival programming last year was good. RMOW increased investment in 2023 with complementary programming animation throughout the Village to set a family-friendly tone. B. Andrea will follow up with the Creekside Village team regarding family friendly activities there. He will also provide the website link plus social media information to Committee members.

4.3 May Long Weekend 2023 Preparations: Round Table Update

Accommodation Sector Representative:

- Committed to contributing to the safe environment: promoting family packages and activities including the Children’s Festival. Will have booking age restrictions and will check IDs as additional guests arrive. Other measures include enforcing maximum room occupancy, observing quiet times, active rounds. Staff to be trained and to notify of large gatherings; communicate to management who will then escalate as needed (hotel security, RCMP). Most hotels in the Village will have security. Expecting busy check-ins Friday evening.

Community Member at Large Representative:

- (Whistler Blackcomb perspective) Weather plays a significant factor. Hiring additional security for bag checks at load-ins. Ski Patrol will have regular roster and will survey known on-mountain liquor stashes and clean them out. Operating as historically. Anticipating having a ski-out to the Valley to help Patrol and free up resources. Helicopter support on standby. WB Leadership will be present at

load-ins and on mountain to better deal with any issues. Bike Park (Village only) opens May 19, will siphon off some energy. Business as usual for the F&B locations.

- A discussion was held regarding the newly updated policy on drug usage. WB is considered private property and therefore can restrict drug use. A. Francis will be discussing implications of the policy change with peers at the upcoming Canada West Ski Areas Association conference in Whistler next month.

Liquor Primary Sector Representative:

- Communicating regularly with RCMP and will alert them if any issues. Checking IDs using PatronsCan which gives the ability to ban patrons across the Resort. The May Long Weekend will be business as usual, since nightly operations are already streamlined, including liaising closely with the RCMP..

RCMP (Cpl. Miller):

- Mirroring last year's Operations Plan; reducing resources slightly. Focus will be on traffic enforcement as well as monitoring common gathering places; will disperse large groups if necessary. Will have park patrols plus a few extra resources in the Village. Last year had PCs parked in Marketplace, engaging with the public. Liaising with community partners (e.g., Conservation, Bylaw, Fire, Security Association, Hotel Association, Liquor Primary, Liquor Inspector, Restaurant Association, Whistler Blackcomb).
- WB requested RCMP support on the mountain at the end of the weekend, when Blackcomb Mountain closes for the season. RCMP will have increased presence and will work with the WB team as the weekend nears.
- Cpl. Miller / L. DeBou will circulate a phone list/protocol to the group.

Restaurant Sector Representative:

- Measures include ensuring teams have Serving It Right standards top of mind; checking IDs; ensuring patrons are not overserved. Communication with teams ahead of time is key, ensuring they know what to do, for example barring an intoxicated patron from entering. The Restaurants Association welcomes RCMP presence at their establishments.
- RCMP hoping that some late-opening restaurants have a security presence.

Retail Merchants Sector Representative:

- From the retail perspective, all businesses are understaffed in the Village.
- S. Holland enquired as to whether there will be communication if a major event occurs. T. Battiston responded that all that communication will come via the RMOW; for example, notifying when safe for businesses to re-open. RMOW is learning from last year's experience; has started to consolidate messaging.
- L. DeBou suggested all staff sign up for Whistler Alert (<https://www.whistler.ca/services/emergency/whistler-alert>) - RMOW uses to communicate out during a major event. Whistler Alert is separate from the Provincial system, which has a very specific protocol.

RMOW Protective Services Representative:

- Bylaw Park and Trail Ambassadors have started proactive work on e-bikes to educate the public on park etiquette.
- Protective Services members will be optimizing their presence in parks and in the Village.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Additional Meetings for Other High Visitation Weekends

T. Battiston led a discussion regarding considering other high visitation or high-pressure weekends with the same diligence as brought to the May Long Weekend.

Consensus settled on keeping a focus on safety and moving forwards with a trial run of an additional early December meeting to cover the New Year’s Eve and Martin Luther King weekends. Regarding public safety-oriented planning groups around other weekends (e.g., Crankworx), the request was made to share notes with Committee members and Associations.

Recommendation

Moved by Accommodation Sector Representative P. Contreras
Seconded by Liquor Primary Sector Representative T. Clark

That the May Long Weekend Committee hold as a trial run an additional early December meeting to cover the New Year’s Eve and Martin Luther King weekends.

CARRIED

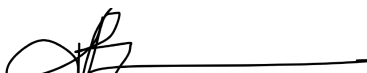
6. TERMINATION

Moved By Councillor, J. Morden


Seconded By Restaurant Sector Representative, Kevin Wallace

That the May Long Weekend Committee terminate the Regular Committee Meeting of Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

CARRIED



Chair, T. Battiston



Recording Secretary, B. Sullivan