



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, July 12, 2023, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.**

### **ZOOM MEETING**

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (4)
Acting Chair, Taylor Green, Member at Large	4
Acting Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson, RMOW Environmental Stewardship	1
Hanneke Snijder, Whistler Blackcomb	2
Denise Imbeau, GFL Environmental - Waste Management	1
Arthur DeJong, Council	5
Ivana Minic-Lukac, Whistler Wildlife Protection Group	5
REGRETS	
Sgt. Nathan Miller, RCMP	1
Claire Ruddy, AWARE	0
Simon Gravel, BC Conservation Officer Service	0
Adrien Baudouin, Member at Large	3
Chair, Tara Schaufele, RMOW Environmental Stewardship	3
Recording Secretary, Ashley Dowling, RMOW Environmental Stewardship	2
Juan Pineda, Bylaw Services	3
Brittany Mueller, BC Conservation Officer Service	4
John Beith, Bylaw Services	1

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by A. DeJong  
Seconded by I. Minic-Lukac

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory  
Committee Agenda of July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

CARRIED

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by A. DeJong  
Seconded by I. Minic-Lukac

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear  
Advisory Committee Minutes of June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

CARRIED

## PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

### Updates

#### Whistler Wildlife Protection Group

A presentation by I. Minic-Lukac was given regarding Whistler Wildlife Protection Group activities and a discussion was held.

- Assisted with door-to-door education last week in Nordic - Castle Drive- educating people about bears entering homes

#### A. DeJong

A discussion by A. DeJong was held.

- Watched a yearling male at about 1100m on Whistler, quite unhealthy looking. Eating sage grass.
- One of the snow makers have been keeping numbers of bear observations- he had 87 sightings, more around the Olympic Bench
- ½ the observations you would have seen 6-7 years ago
- Bear activity is way down compared to previous years
- Very dry spring and summer, concerned about berry crops through summer. Long term forecasts are dry - less precipitation and above average temps forecast for July, August and Sept. Tied to El Nino effect we are now seeing.
- Believes there is a lower population of bears in Whistler at the moment

#### Whistler Blackcomb

A presentation by H. Snijder was given regarding Whistler Blackcomb activities and a discussion was held.

- Michael Allen has seen 40 black bears on the mountain and noted that this year is a really low cub year due to drought conditions and low food availability
- Bear activity higher earlier in the year, but really dropped last few days
- Repeatedly seeing an injured bear over last few weeks on mountain, appears to have injured hind paw, but seems to be doing well otherwise
- 1 COY on mountain, no sow around, but cub is eating and appears healthy
- Very low visitation recently and bear viewing tours are really down compared to normal
- Bear viewing certification - contacted the association a little bit late. Now there are very low visitation numbers so they don't have any additional money to spend on courses, etc.

#### RMOW Environmental Stewardship

A presentation by H. Williamson was given regarding the RMOW Environmental Stewardship's activities and a discussion was held.

- Ashley conducted a number of workshops over the past few weeks
  - 5 Bear Spray Workshops: Parks teams and Bylaw
  - Education events: Kids on the Go, Whistler Visitor Centre, Combo Camps x 2, Inside Scoop
  - Working in Bear Country workshop – Village Maintenance and Landscaping Team

- Ashley has conducted Door to door education in:
  - Bayshores, Spring Creek and Cheakamus. Advised by residents that the bears had been very active and were in the areas frequently.
  - Ivana has kindly assisted with education in Nordic
- Ashley and Tara have had several meetings with our communications team to ensure consistency of messaging. There have been some questions regarding the wording to be used for bear posts so a discussion around wording will be added to the next WBAC meeting agenda and a document will be created and shared with the communications team.
- Trying to set-up a meeting with Nesters recycling regarding a bear spray disposal program
- Ashley visited Circle K in Marketplace following an email request from Bylaw regarding a bear accessing attractants and to discuss bear safe garbage disposal. When visited, garbage cans had all been replaced by GFL with bear safe ones and staff advised there had not been any further issues.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business

## **MOTION TO TERMINATE**

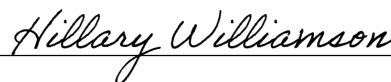
Moved by A. DeJong

Seconded by I. Minic-Lukac

**That** the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of July 12, 2023 be terminated at 9:00 am



Chair, Taylor Green



Recording Secretary, Hillary  
Williamson