



**REGULAR MEETING OF
RECREATION LEISURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Thursday, May 11, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Meeting in person
Flute Room, Municipal Hall

		Mtgs: YTD (3)
PRESENT:	Member at Large, Chair, J. Chuback	3
	Councilor, R. Forsyth	3
	Whistler Sports Legacies representative, Co-Chair, R. Soane	3
	Member at Large, A. Ross	2
	Member at Large, D. Titus	3
	Member at Large, P. Street	3
	Member at Large, L. Scroggins	3
	Member at Large, C. MacKenzie	2
	Sea to Sky School District 48 representative, C. Higgins	1
	Tourism Whistler representative, Meredith Klau	1
ABSENT:	Member at Large, B. Goldsmid	2
STAFF	Acting Manager, Resort Parks Planning, RMOW, A. Oja	
PRESENT:	Recreation Manager, RMOW, R. Weetman	
	Parks Planning Technician, K. Sibbald	
	General Manager of Climate Action, Development, and Planning Services, D. Mikkelsen	
	Recording Secretary, O. Carroll	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair. J. Chuback called the meeting to order and asked for a volunteer to read the land acknowledgement. Member at Large, Liz Scroggins recognized the Resort Municipality of Whistler is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lílwat People, known in their language as Lílwat7úl, 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 D. Titus

Seconded By R. Forsyth

That Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting agenda of Thursday, May 11, 2023.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By R. Forsyth

Seconded By R. Soane

That Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting minutes, as corrected, of Thursday, March 9, 2023.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 Council Update

Updates were given by Councilor R. Forsyth.

- Zoning approved for an employee housing two-bedroom suite above Moguls
- Whistler Transit will be hiring two more full-time, year-round drivers to assist with driver shortage.
- WORCA and BC Hydro to have a conversation regarding trail damage due to thinning under the powerlines over the winter.
- All of Council attended the Lower Mainland Local Government Association, a three-panel discussion, including a panel on 'code of conduct'. Squamish just adopted their 'code of conduct' and the lawyer they used was present at the meeting and will be meeting with Whistler Council to help write our 'code of conduct'.

4.2 Staff Introduction

General Manager of Climate Action, Planning & Development Services (CAPD), Dale Mikkelsen introduced himself to the committee and provided a summary of CAPD updates.

Rainbow Park

- Tender being presented for approval at May 16 Council meeting with a projected construction start date of end of May/early June 2023.
- Park will be largely closed but will be working with contractor to keep water access open, especially near the water craft rack rental zone. There is a safety and operational risk, so needs to be managed and respected by users.
- Park Operations will look at how best to get people from the Valley Trail to Alta Lake Road and back to Valley Trail with comprehensive signage.

Sproatt/Alpine

- Trail Ranger program is ready to go. There will not be any new trail development in this area due to grizzly habitat.
- Review of e-bike policy in alpine; part of the terms of use was to review the policy this year.

Recreation Sites Trails BC (RSTBC)

- Moving forward with a new trail approval process. If the RMOW or WORCA wants to put through proposal for new multi-use trails on crown land, RSTBC should be making this a more streamlined process.

E-bike Share Program

- Last year was a demonstration project for an e-bike share program. This year an RFP was put forward for a two-year pilot program. BCAA was the successful

- applicant.
- Currently in the design and launch phase and hoping to be in place for Bike to Work Week.
- Focusing on community destinations for short-trip destinations. Different market than local bike shop rentals. Day rentals are much cheaper with local bike rental companies.
- Bike redistribution service has gone to tender, hopefully a local service provider. Will be pre-determined drop off/pick up locations.

Recreation Trail Strategy (RTS)

- Public survey period now closed, and staff are compiling results.

Climate & Environment

- Immediate fuel thinning in 'No Flow Zone' in Emerald area to be closed early summer. 'Howler' will be most impacted but hoping there will not be full closure of the trail in June/July as it is a destination trail.
- Bringing on two casual staff for the Geese Hazing program; previously hired as contractors, now being brought on as casual RMOW staff.
- Toad patrol staff vacancy – great position for a first-year student in biological science; invested in nature/environment. Culvert program to go in next spring, which is essentially an underground highway for the toads, so no trails will be closed.

Committee was interested to hear how RMOW are managing the uptick in graffiti, particularly the train wreck area. RLAC members are interested in the alpine e-bike policy review.

4.3 Meadow Park RePlay Update

A. Oja provided a presentation on updates to Meadow Park RePlay project.

Key data input that helps formulate master plan:

- Outside Voice Parks Master Plan
- Community Input – from Phase 1 and Phase 2 engagement.
- Site constraints – environmental considerations, spatial considerations.
- Current level of use – the amount that each feature or area is currently being used.
- Immediate need – ageing and failing infrastructure as well as safety
- Smart Tourism principles – design parks to encourage dispersion.
- Operational experience – day to day experience and observations.

Community engagement

- Three opportunities for engagement.
- Completed one round of engagement – feedback has been prepared into an engagement summary report which is now available on whistler.ca.
- Next round of engagement targeted for May 29 – June 6th with three pop-up open houses at Meadow Park Sports Centre, Nesters Grocery, and within Meadow Park itself; as well as an online survey with two-week window.

- The second round of engagement will be another opportunity to provide input on the draft Master Plan from the initial feedback and revisions made from Phase 1 engagement.

Draft Master Plan updates

- Expanded and formalized dog off leash area with a connection to River of Golden Dreams. Dog owners provided feedback that the new area needs to be comparable in size to the existing facility to be utilized. One of the largest park users, utilizing the dog off leash area 365 days per year.
- Previous plan proposed eliminating only one diamond, revised plan will eliminate both baseball diamonds. Little League runs practices with two diamonds for two different age groups, so if only one is available, their preference would be to shift to Spruce Grove Park. Little League season is only 6 weeks long and ends in June. Short timeframe for this user group and keeping two diamonds greatly restricts future park development.
- Expanded riverfront picnic area by shifting valley trail up.
- Incorporated tiered stone slabs to formalize water connection and aid in flood mitigation.
- Bookable covered space; Walking loop, and fitness area; Youth area.
- Splash park – design concept to incorporate natural materials, ground sprays transitioning to sand/water creative play area. Exploring ‘recirculating system’ which uses significantly less water, but challenges are high cost to install and maintain.

Committee asked staff questions about spray park design concept and water utilization, the size and surface of the proposed dog park, and potential location/space remaining for racket club should it need to be placed in Meadow Park.

On the topic of park rejuvenation, committee members raised concern of the Lakeside Park culvert project being in progress at the same time of the Rainbow Park summer closure with relation to the dispersion of park users. Committee members expressed the importance of ensuring transportation opportunities to all the open parks, including shuttle and parking considerations, particularly for young families.

R. Soane **moved** and it was seconded by J. Chuback to request Staff and Council to look specifically at what the impact is going to be with the park closure and to have a more comprehensive plan on the redistribution of park users. Motion carried unanimously.

4.4 Recreation Trail Maps

RMOW Parks Planning Technician, K. Sibbald, provided a presentation on the updates being made to municipal recreation trail signs.

The last updates were completed in 2019. Cascade Environmental has been contracted to produce all new maps. The new design will be simplified and similar to the BC Parks map format with multi-use trails in black, hiking in red; difficulty rating icons on trails. Key parts of the trail will be highlighted with blown-up insets showing more details and features. Target completion date for middle of June 2023.

Graphic designer will be contracted to create a free, downloadable brochure that combines maps and trail descriptions as well as additional information on wildlife,

watershed, wildlife restrictions, alpine areas, “Don’t love it to Death”, AdventureSmart, access, etc. Target completion date for June/July 2023.

Committee identified the opportunity for QR codes on maps and brochures, as well as on signposts to help visitors/users orient themselves.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) Conference

Committee asked about the opportunity that used to exist for volunteers to attend the BCRPA conference. Staff responded that the budget was significantly reduced for attendance including RMOW staff, so unfortunately no room for committee member attendance. New members requested BCRPA membership details, which will be forwarded to members by Recording Secretary.

5.2 Valley Trail Snow Clearing Update

Staff provided a follow up on the operational updates of the valley trail snow clearing between Lot 5 and the skate park. Staff reported that it was not a permanent update, and that operationally they could continue to snow clear or not, depending on what is best for the majority of users.

Committee member identified the challenges of using the pea gravel in that it inevitably contaminates the ski trail.

C. Mackenzie **moved** and it was seconded by R. Forsyth to request the snow clearing on the east side of the village parking lots reverts to being groomed by Lost Lake Grooming. Motion carried unanimously.

5.3 Lost Lake Snowmaking Project

R. Weetman provided an update on the project to the committee highlighting that the work to date will not have an effect on the ability to snow make next season. A 600 meter pipe has been laid, which provides water access from Blackcomb Creek Reservoir for the ability to make snow in the future. The water capacity of this creek does not have enough capacity to generate micro-hydro year-round. When it’s running, it would be at net zero, but not at certain times of the year. Completion of this phase of the project, which is grant-funded, is projected in the next couple of weeks.

Staff noted the project has been removed from the RMOW 5-year financial plan. Committee inquired whether the removal of the snowmaking project from the 5-year financial plan was a staff decision approved by Council or a Council decision that removed it? Councilor Forsyth replied that it was likely a staff decision presented to Council.

Feasibility study was completed in 2014 for this project. Committee expressed interest in seeing this study as a future agenda item that lays out the steps and scope of the project that includes timeline and costs.

6. TERMINATION

Moved By J. Chuback

Seconded By R. Forsyth

That the Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee terminate the Regular Committee Meeting of Thursday, May 11, 2023.

CARRIED

Co-Chair R. Soane on behalf of Chair, J. Chuback

Recording Secretary, L. Pocock