



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

Thursday, September 14, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Meeting in person
Flute Room, Municipal Hall

		Mtgs: YTD (3)
PRESENT:	Whistler Sports Legacies representative, Co-Chair, R. Soane	4
	Councilor, R. Forsyth	4
	Member at Large, A. Ross (remote)	3
	Member at Large, D. Titus	4
	Member at Large, B. Goldsmid	3
	Member at Large, L. Scroggins (remote)	4
	Member at Large, C. MacKenzie	3
	Sea to Sky School District 48 representative, C. Higgins	2
ABSENT:	Member at Large, Chair, J. Chuback	3
	Member at Large, P. Street	3
	Tourism Whistler representative, Meredith Klau	1
STAFF		
PRESENT:	Manager, Resort Parks Planning, RMOW, M. Pardoe	
	Recreation Manager, RMOW, R. Weetman	
	Parks Planning, A. Oja	
	Recording Secretary, M. Talaro	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair. R. Soane called the meeting to order and read the land acknowledgement. The Chair, 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 Lií'wat7úl, and the Squamish People, known in their language as Sk̓wx̓ wú7mesh. 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 C. MacKenzie

That Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting agenda, as amended, of Thursday, September 14, 2023.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By C. MacKenzie

Seconded By D. Titus

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

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 Council Update

Updates were given by Councillor R. Forsyth.

Governance & Ethics Committee

- Over the last few years, through feedback and surveys of committees, a presentation was created by staff to re-structure how committees meet and how the members' time is better utilized.
- The "Committee of Council Review Project Update" presentation was shared with the group.
- The 20 Standing (includes Council and Staff) and Select (Includes members of public) Committees will be re-structured. The Public Art, Mayor's Task Force on Resident Housing, Recreation Leisure Advisory, and Technology Committees will be formally disbanded.
- The new Committee structure will feature Select Committees (includes members of public), Standing Committees (includes Council and Staff), Working Groups, and Council Appointed Boards.
- RLAC will collapse into the Smart Tourism category. Discussion included arguments that as a resident-based committee it may not belong under the Smart Tourism category, and it may lose the distinct representation of locals.

Discussion questions

- *Size of committee?*
- *Overload of working groups?*
- *How often will they meet?*
- *What is the mandate and how is it chaired?*
- *Agenda would be too large to balance tourism vs community.*

Questions will be brought forward to the G & E Committee in October for discussion. Send feedback and any other questions to R. Forsyth. Next steps will include input from all the Committees, Council will meet, and the final product will be shared.

4.2 Lost Lake Snowmaking, Project Update and Future Steps

R. Weetman provided an update on the Lost Lake Snowmaking project.

Next steps for project:

- Budget amendment for existing phase.
- Electrical installation pending (Fall).
- One snow gun at special event area (adjacent to the warming hut) to be tested this winter.
- Current phase brought water from Blackcomb Creek intake down into the parking lot.

Discussion Questions

- *What type of snow making pressure system will be used?* The system is built to use fan guns, but more testing will be done in the fall.

4.3 Meadow Park Rejuvenation Project Update and Future Steps

Park Planner, A. Oja, provided an update and future steps on the Meadow Park Rejuvenation Project.

Meadow Park RePlay Presentation

- Engagement results were shared from the 270 surveys completed:
 - Meadow Park- 59% supportive, 25% unsupportive, 16% neutral
 - Playground and Spray Park- 66% supportive, 12% unsupportive 22% neutral,
- Re-routing valley trail around the spray park and playground was preferred by the community.
- Notable excitement for playground and splash park upgrades, as it is for the community and not a tourist destination.
- Community prefers to keep baseball fields, and protect the River of Golden Dreams
- Developing the Master Plan included several considerations, which started with seven and have now grown to thirteen.
- Part three will be our informed piece of engagement. This includes reporting back to the community, communicating interim Master Plan, and future design of the playground and spray park. Next steps include a trial relocation of baseball fields to Spruce Grove, restart and complete the 2023 park strategy, advance Smart Tourism initiative, and funding (RMI) is a priority.

Discussion questions

How is a trial unsuccessful? - Look at schedules and logistics of how it runs and operates, feedback form users and be able to report back to the community.

Are the adult and minor leagues in favour? - Both leagues were supportive to the trial.

Concerns of unscheduled (locals' pick-up games) baseball events at the field – Open to the trial and see if they are missed or not.

Where is funding coming from? – RMI

2023 - Phase 1

- Increasing space between fields and playground, and fully enclosing dog off-leash area. Enforcement will be important in educating community of off-leash area. It is not ideal to have shared use on the fields, but there is no luxury of real estate in the community.
- Spray Park – Vancouver Coastal Health requires all spray parks to use a potable water source. How the system works is after users interact with the water, it flows down to a bioswale before running off into the storm drain. Also looking at installing misting stations, that can operate even with water restrictions. Looking at covered spaces through shade sails and trees. Plant species that will lower the water consumption itself, low maintenance and go through drip irrigation, which is 70% more efficient.

Irrigation – Non potable well-head installed last year, so irrigation has been taken off potable water supply. That means 3 million litres of potable water will be conserved through this water supply change. A huge win on water conservation for the community.

Discussion questions

Are there ways to treat the water to re-use the water? There are regulations that restrict the use of water that has been in contact with humans, referred to as black water. It can be used for drip irrigation, but not through spray heads. This system will maximize dollars and contribute positively to water table.

Playground and Splash Park

- Focus on accessibility and circulation of pathways.
- Include a variety of inclusive play elements that challenge children's emotional,

- physical, social, and cognitive needs.
- Consideration to sun exposure and temperature. Slides built facing north east is most optimal.

Notable Dates:

Committee of the Whole update on Sept. 26.

Community update Sept. 27.

Detailed design to tender for Q4 2023 -Q1 2024.

Construction to begin Q2 2024 – Q2 2025.

4.4 Recreation Trail Strategy

M. Pardoe provided a progress report and future steps of the Recreation Trail Strategy.

A presentation was shared.

- Entering a new round of community engagement, third and final piece.
- Three parts: vision and objectives, framework to guide specific areas (decision making), and physical inventory (engagement)
- 11 trail area suitability analysis and recommendations. Not a trail master plan, it is how we make decisions about the land and coming together so that we are on the same page.
- The draft will be shared with committees week of Oct. 2. Looking to review the 100-page document by Oct. 9. Focus specifically on the less suitable for, more suitable for, and recommendations.
- Public engagement to begin in October in the form of online info sessions, self-directed engagement, and staff pop up booths.
- The Trail Network Analysis and Recommendation draft document was shared followed by a high-level review.
- Hard copies to be circulated on request. M. Pardoe to share.

Consultation pending with Lil'wat First Nation and Squamish First Nation

4.5 Council Policy I-06 and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw, 2243 Amendments

R. Weetman presented the Amendments to Council Policy I-06 and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw, 2243.

- Why? The current Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw is set to expire at the end of this year and a new fee structure for the next four years needs to be in place starting in 2024.
- Focus on cost recovery rates due to inflation, anticipated wage increases and increased cost of operations.
- Shared current I-06 Council Policy, highlighting the amendments.

Key changes:

- In-bedding a Senior rate into the document. Senior rate product was not implemented when the fee bylaw was first created, as all demographics were struggling with fees
- Looking to avoid overly affecting residents (passholders) with upcoming increase. Proposal to increase the drop-in rate (base rate) instead. Reviewed the change in multipliers that are affected by the base rate.
- Eliminate low time use rate for admissions but keep the pass product.
- Free access to local schools to now include the First Nations community schools as a reconciliation piece and Ecole Vallee in Pemberton. Free access times are between school hours from Monday through Friday,
- New proposed rates for Whistler Olympic Plaza to be included in the policy. WOP is a tourist-based operation that is currently funded by RMI contribution.

- Cross Country – The program is running at a higher deficit than any time before. Adjusting day ticket pricing (7.7% increase), but no pass price increase currently. Elimination of the Extra Early Bird price and raising Early Bird price by 5.2%. The gap would be 13% with a regular increase of 4.3% annually. Reducing snowshoe pass by 10% to make it more affordable. Looking to create a new Nick North specific pass that is designed for seniors.

Discussion question

What is the drop-in rate in the city? - Product mix for our facility is one fee for multiple activities vs a fee per activity at other facilities. Our tax base is lower than the Greater Vancouver area meaning higher fees. Compared to resort towns like Revelstoke, Canmore, and Jasper we are competitive with their rates.

Do other municipalities i.e. Pemberton or Squamish, subsidize our activities for their residents? - No, but they support the local economy.

Why have discounted products? - Low use time of day products exists if they do not affect revenue.

That Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee recommends adopting the amendments to Council Policy I-06 and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw, 2243, as presented.

Moved By C. MacKenzie

Seconded By D. Titus

CARRIED

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Civic Service Awards

M. Pardoe will send the committee a link to the Civic Nomination form.
Staff are not eligible for nomination.
Process closes next week.

5.2 New SD 48 Representative

C. Higgins will be stepping down as the SD 48 representative. She shared that she appreciated everyone’s work, commitment, and integrity.
Ian Currie will be returning to the committee as the SD 48 representative.

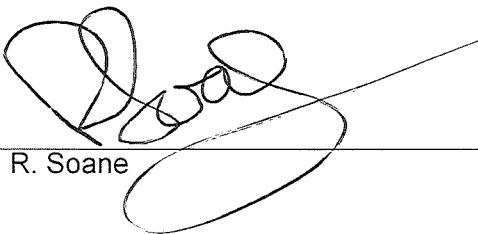
6. TERMINATION

Moved By B. Goldsmid

Seconded By R. Forsyth

That the Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee terminate the Regular Committee Meeting of Thursday, September 14, 2023.

CARRIED



Chair, R. Soane

Recording Secretary, M. Talaro