



**RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER**

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## STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

**PRESENTED:** August 2, 2022 **REPORT:** 22-111  
**FROM:** Planning – Development **FILE:** LLR01379  
**SUBJECT:** WHISTLER VILLAGE BEER FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT LIQUOR  
LICENCE

### RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**That** the recommendation of the General Manager of Resort Experience be endorsed.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That** Council approve the Whistler Village Beer Festival application for a Special Event Permit for liquor service at Whistler Olympic Plaza with up to 3,500 patrons, from 12 pm to 5 pm on Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18, 2022, consistent with the event description and mitigation measures and the Whistler Fire Rescue Service Stamped Occupant Load Plan Drawing, attached as Appendices A and C to this Administrative Report 22-111, subject to Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) approval.

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a recommendation for Council's consideration regarding an application from Gibbon's Festivals and Events Co. for approval of a Special Event Permit (SEP) liquor license for the Whistler Village Beer Festival to be held at Whistler Olympic Plaza (Olympic Plaza) on Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18, 2022.

Information Report  Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

### DISCUSSION

#### Background

Gibbon's Festivals and Events Co. has applied for approval of a SEP liquor license for the Whistler Village Beer Festival (Festival), to be held from September 13-18, 2022. The goal of the Festival is to assist with increasing visits to Whistler during a shoulder season period. Events for the Festival will be held throughout the week, culminating in the main events on Saturday, September 17, 2022 and Sunday, September 18, 2022. These main events of the Festival are outdoor beer tasting events that will feature 60 breweries in Olympic Plaza providing samples of 120+ types of beer. Appendix A describes the overall festival in more detail along with event management and mitigation measures.

Due to the potential for noise and disturbances from outdoor events to have negative impacts on the community, Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) Council Policy G-17: *Municipal Liquor Licensing Policy* requires that SEPs for more than 500 people be approved by Council.

### **Analysis**

The Festival's service area will occur within a fenced space in Olympic Plaza as shown in Appendix B. Liquor service hours being requested are 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm with last call at 4:45 pm. The maximum capacity being requested for the licensed area each day is 3,500 people. The plan has been reviewed and approved by Whistler Fire Rescue Services (WFRS). Capacity includes ticket holders, event staff, beer company service staff, security, entertainers, etc. For past years when the event has been held, capacity has changed year-to-year depending on various factors and has ranged between 3200 up to as many as 4000 people. No issues have been reported.

Event details are presented in the applicant submission attached as Appendix A and are summarized as follows:

- Date and time: Saturday September 17, and Sunday September 18, 2022 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
- Location: Olympic Plaza. Licensed area will encompass Olympic Plaza and be delineated by fencing.
- Number of patrons: maximum 3,500.
- Event type and access: beer festival tasting events, open to the public with purchase of ticket.
- Liquor service: special event permit on behalf of all manufacturers attending. Serving sizes limited to maximum serving sizes (i.e. 4 oz. for beer) permitted at tasting events.
- Minors: minors are prohibited (under age 19).
- Food Service: there will be five food trucks available inside the licensed area.
- Security: Eight foot fencing with scrim will create a perimeter boundary of the Olympic Plaza licensed area. 13 professional security guards will be on the premises each day to monitor the event.
- Toilets: 70 toilets will be available in the licensed area. 62 portable toilets are being supplied in the general admission area and 8 existing toilets will be used in the VIP area.
- Waste: Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment will be on site with Zero Waste Stations and there will be a complete site clean-up after the event.

The proposal addresses measures to mitigate potential negative impacts as follows:

#### **Noise during the event and at dispersal:**

- Event runs from noon to 5 pm on Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18. The live music will end at 4:30 pm each day and switch to a DJ until 5 pm.
- It is anticipated the music will be audible to the few businesses and patio area surrounding Olympic Plaza from 12 pm to 5 pm both days.

#### **Access to Liquor by Minors and over-service:**

- Minors will not be permitted in the service area.
- Patrons can purchase a maximum of ten tokens at a time. This equates to two 20 ounce pints, which is the maximum a patron can legally purchase at a liquor primary licence establishment.
- Maximum permitted serving size for a tasting event cannot exceed four ounces for beer, ciders and coolers.

- Staff serving liquor will be licensed “Serving it Right” staff.

### Event Security

- Olympic Plaza will be entirely bounded by eight foot high fencing with scrim.
- 13 certified professional security guards will be on site to monitor the event.
- One main entry into the event will be attended by security guards to keep track of the maximum number of patrons.

WFRS has stamped the plan drawing for the maximum occupant load of 3,500 as required as part of municipal review for a special event application. The stamped occupant load plan drawing is attached as Appendix C.

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## **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Relevant Council Authority/Previous Decisions**

Council Policy G-17: *Municipal Liquor Licensing Policy* requires that SEPs for more than 500 people be approved by Council.

### **Corporate Plan**

The RMOW Corporate Plan is updated annually and articulates strategic direction for the organization. This section identifies how this report links to the plan.

### **Council Focus Areas**

- Community Balance  
*Effectively **balance resort and community needs** through deliberate planning, partnerships and investment*
- Climate Action  
*Provide leadership to **accelerate climate action and environmental performance** across the community*
- Housing  
*Advance strategic and innovative initiatives to enable and **deliver additional employee housing***
- Pandemic Recovery  
*Leadership and support for **community and tourism recovery and sustainability** – priority focuses are where recovery needs intersect with other Council focus areas*
- Not Applicable

### **Community Vision and Official Community Plan**

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the RMOW's most important guiding document that sets the community vision and long-term community direction. This section identifies how this report applies to the OCP.

The recommended resolution included within this report is consistent with the goals, objectives and policies included within "OCP Bylaw No. 2199, 2018".

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### **BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no budget considerations. The municipal application fee for a SEP is set to cover staff costs for processing the application.

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### **LIL'WAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS**

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lil'wat People, known in their language as *L'il'wat7úl* and the Squamish People, known in their language as the *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy.

There are no specific considerations to include in this report.

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### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

Inform     Consult     Involve     Collaborate     Empower

Comment(s):

The details of the proposed special event were referred to the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee members for comment. No concerns were expressed.

The Whistler detachment of the RCMP, WFRS, Building and Bylaw Departments were consulted during the review of this application. No concerns were expressed.

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### **REFERENCES**

Appendix A – Event Description  
Appendix B – Plan Drawing  
Appendix C – WFRS Stamped Occupant Load Plan Drawing

## **SUMMARY**

This report presents a SEP liquor license application for the Whistler Village Beer Festival for Council's consideration of approval. The proposal is for a maximum 3,500 patron event in Olympic Plaza in Whistler Village on Saturday September 17 and Sunday September 18, 2022 from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm each day. The proposed mitigation measures address any potential concerns and this report recommends that Council approve the SEP.

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## **SIGN-OFFS**

### **Written by:**

Brook McCrady,  
Planning Analyst

### **Reviewed by:**

Mike Kirkegaard,  
Director of Planning

Jessie Gresley-Jones,  
General Manager Resort Experience

Virginia Cullen,  
Chief Administrative Officer