



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 08, 2022, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.**

### ZOOM

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

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by B. Mueller  
Seconded by A. Dowling

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory  
Committee Agenda of June 08, 2022.

CARRIED

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by I. Minic-Lukac  
Seconded by T. Green

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear  
Advisory Committee Minutes of May 11, 2022.

CARRIED

## PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

### Updates

#### RMOW Bylaw Services

A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding RMOW Bylaw Services activities and a discussion was held.

- May was a quiet month - 1 call for attractants, but none found when visit conducted
- No tolerance policy for attractants. Any call regarding attractants receives a visit and, if attractants are found, a ticket

#### A. DeJong

A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding bear sightings.

- No updates regarding Vail and their position regarding WBAC and if somebody will fill it now ADJ is not with them. Will see if he can find out further information regarding this
- Comments given regarding general observations from many years working on the mountain about population of Black Bears in Whistler. Black Bear population around Greenacres area used to be a lot higher – 18-24 bears approx., in fall, as high berry crop, but now around half of this. Not sure if this is a reflection on the population or different feeding grounds

#### RMOW Environmental Stewardship

A presentation by A. Dowling was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.

- Brief introduction of Bear Smart Program Assistant to members who were not able to attend the last meeting
- Request for a new Co-Chair as C. Ruddy is stepping down
- Citizen science techniques discussed further regarding what would be relevant to Whistler and what information we would need to see from a project like this.
- BSPA has contacted Air BnB about reaching owners in Whistler area to provide educational information to guests and is currently drafting a document to be sent to them
- BSPA has attended educational events and has many planned for the summer
- Discussed UBC research project on co-existence with Black Bears in BC (Squamish, Tofino and Uclulet) and findings that communities involved thought tourists had a negative impact on bear behavior. One of their main working points is to work with Explore BC, local Tourism and Airbnb. Provided update that Tourism Whistler and Airbnb has already been contacted by BSPA
- BSPA briefly discussed the WARP website. Wildsafe BC in charge of this, updates or requests would need to go through them for information to be more specific
- Request for other topics or suggestions to add to meetings so they are not just updates

- Conservation Officer Service (COS) A presentation by B. Mueller was given regarding the Conservation Officer Service activities and a discussion was held.
- COS has been very active with reports of bears in the Valley
  - New Wildlife Safety Response Officer onboard to help with education and community outreach – Mallory Blake
  - Three Grizzly bears in Callaghan Valley, one young female that is roadside and attracting a lot of attention – she is a concern. Pique article released to request visitors and residents not to visit the area. COS is working with many organizations regarding the bear, including, RCMP, Bylaw, Provincial Wildlife Biologist. The bear has been hazed several times and comes back to the area within an hour or so. Daily patrols being conducted
  - Working with operations at Vail regarding a garbage compactor at Base 2 that is creating issues. COS have hazed the bear, but it comes back
  - Sow with two COY in Bayshores bluff charging dog walkers
  - Several bears have accessed garbage throughout the valley
  - Several family units in the valley
- Whistler Wildlife Protection Group A presentation by I. Minic-Lukac was given regarding Whistler Wildlife Protection Group activities and a discussion was held.
- No specific update, away on vacation for another two weeks, but BSPA has volunteer information if necessary for door to door education
- AWARE A presentation by C. Ruddy was given regarding AWARE activities and a discussion was held.
- Events –will add more bear messaging to AWARE tents
  - Where AWARE has presence in parks over the summer bear messaging will be included
  - No update on Coast to Cascades, has not spoken to them for a while
- GFL Environmental – Waste Management A presentation by D. Imbeau was given regarding GFL Environmental – Waste Management activities and a discussion was held.
- Couple of calls from Bylaw regarding securing bins – these issues have been addressed
  - Not all construction bins currently have lids. There are not of enough of these held by GFL and more are added each year
  - Construction companies are offered compost or garbage totes alongside the construction bins that do not have lids, but do need to be kept in a secure location
- Action Items**
- BSPA to look back into historic WBAC agendas and minutes (Sylvia Dolson time) and see what structure the meetings took, topics addressed and ways to move forward so the meetings are not just updates
  - BSPA to add in eco-citizen information to bear messaging document for Airbnb

**Other Business**

- Taylor Green advised that the Grizzly Bear Foundation would like to assist with signage for the grizzly bear situation that is currently happening in the Callaghan Valley. T.Green to liaise with B. Mueller from COS
- Taylor Green will discuss stepping in as the Co-Chair for the WBAC

**MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by J. Pineda  
Seconded by A. DeJong

**That** the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of June 08, 2022 be terminated at 9:30 a.m **CARRIED**



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Co-Chair, Claire Ruddy



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Recording Secretary, Ashley Dowling