



RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER

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STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: December 20, 2022 **REPORT:** 22-154
FROM: Planning - Development **FILE:** LLR01380
SUBJECT: WHISTLER PRIDE AND SKI FESTIVAL - TEMPORARY CHANGE TO HOURS OF LIQUOR SERVICE

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorize hours of liquor sales to extend to 4:00 a.m. for the Whistler Pride and Ski Festival Snowball Dance being held at the Whistler Conference Centre on Saturday January 28-29, 2023.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a recommendation for Council's consideration regarding an application from the Whistler Resort Association, known as Tourism Whistler (TW) for an extension of hours of liquor sales to 4:00 a.m. for the Whistler Pride and Ski Festival Snowball Dance at the Whistler Conference Centre on January 28-29, 2023.

Information Report Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

DISCUSSION

Background

The Whistler Conference Centre (Conference Centre) annually hosts the Whistler Pride and Ski Festival Snowball Dance (Snowball Dance), as part of the annual Whistler Pride and Ski Festival. This event historically has been approved for extended hours each year from 2009-2019, with hours of liquor service to 4:00 am. These extended hours of service require municipal and provincial approval consistent with the municipality's bylaws and policies for liquor licensing.

TW holds a liquor primary licence (no. 106769) at the Conference Centre, and has applied for a temporary extension of hours of liquor service for this year's event, to be held Saturday January 28 until 4am on January 29, 2023. Under the license, the permitted hours of liquor sale are from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m., Monday through Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. on Sunday. As per Council Policy G-17: *Municipal Liquor Licensing*, the requested hours of service require Council consideration and approval as this is requesting hours of liquor service past 2 a.m.

Analysis

The Snowball Dance will have approximately 1,200 guests, and is the final event of the January 22-29, 2023 Whistler Pride and Ski Festival. TW's application states that the Snowball Dance brings an additional 1,000 plus room nights to the resort over and above the week-long festival events. The applicant's event information, attached as Appendix A, describes the benefits of the proposed extension of hours and the measures proposed to manage potential negative impacts.

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

Noise during the event and at dispersal:

The applicant is proposing a multi-pronged approach for potential post-event noise related to dispersing attendees, as outlined below:

- Noise from the event itself will be substantially confined to the Conference Centre and should not be objectionable outside of the building;
- Attendees will be advised by posters at the exit doors and in the washrooms to be respectful of accommodation units in the Village;
- Host hotels (Aava, Crystal Lodge) are centered around the venue for a short walk back to accommodations;
- Exiting attendees will be reminded by the DJ at closing, as well as event and security staff to leave the venue quietly and to be respectful of other resort guests;
- Event organizers will communicate with taxi companies to be available as needed to pick up guests leaving the event;
- With the late closing time attendees tend to leave the event throughout the evening instead of all at the same time. Many event attendees stay at nearby hotels and disperse quickly and quietly after the event;
- Event attendees are mature (30-55 years old) and respectful of the Whistler resort and each other; and,
- Patrons leaving after 3:00 a.m. will not likely interact with those leaving nightclubs, which end liquor service at 2:00 a.m.

The Snowball Dance has been conducted in past years without problems, and the 4:00 a.m. closing of liquor sale has the support of the Whistler RCMP detachment.

The proposed measures should mitigate the potential for noise and disturbance from patrons leaving the event. Council has previously authorized 4:00 a.m. closing times at the Conference Centre for Whistler Pride and Ski Festival events (2009-2019) and for World Ski and Snowboard Festival events (2008-2019), and there were no negative impacts on the community.

Current Good Standing Status

Council Policy G-17: Municipal Liquor Licensing Policy requires that any establishment applying for a temporary liquor license change to be in Good Standing with respect to compliance and enforcement history of the establishment. This application was referred to the Whistler Detachment of the RCMP, Whistler Fire Rescue Services (WFRS), and RMOW Building and Bylaw Departments. The applicant is in Good Standing with no outstanding issues.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Relevant Council Authority/Previous Decisions

Council Policy G-17: Municipal Liquor Licensing Policy requires Council consideration and approval for a temporary change to a liquor primary licence for hours of liquor service past 2 a.m. The policy further supports a Whistler Pride and Ski Festival single weekend event at the Whistler Conference Centre with a 4:00 a.m. closing time for liquor service subject to annual review, Council approval, plans approved by the municipality for the mitigation of potential negative impacts, and the Conference Centre being in Good Standing.

Zoning Analysis

The Conference Centres lands are zoned CC1. The CC1 Zone permits establishments licenced for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises including: hotel, club, recreational centre, restaurant, cabaret, neighbourhood public house, lounge, concert hall, sports stadium and municipally owned cultural centre. The proposal is compliant with all other land use regulations.

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”.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

There are no budget considerations. The municipal application fee for a temporary change to an existing licence is structured to cover staff costs for processing the application.

LÍL'WAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW is committed to working with the Líl'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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

Comment(s):

In accordance with Council Policy G-17, the application was referred to the Municipal Liquor Licence Advisory Committee (LLAC) for their individual comments. No concerns were expressed.

REFERENCES

Appendix A – Whistler Conference Centre 2023 Snowball Dance Event Information

SUMMARY

This report presents an application from TW for a temporary extension of hours of liquor sale until 4:00 a.m. on Sunday January 29, 2023 for the Snowball Dance, the final event of the Whistler Pride and Ski Festival scheduled for the night of Saturday January 28th. Staff recommend that Council approve the extension of hours of liquor sales for this event.

SIGN-OFFS

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