

**RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER**

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STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: July 8, 2025
FROM: Legislative Services
SUBJECT: CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BYLAW (MISC FEES AND PLOT UPDATES) NO. 2484, 2025

REPORT: 25-059
FILE: 3900-20-2484

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the Acting General Manager of Corporate Services and Public Safety be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council consider giving first, second and third readings to “Cemetery Management Amendment Bylaw (Misc Fees and Plot Updates) No. 2484, 2025”.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s consideration of first, second and third reading of the “Cemetery Management Amendment Bylaw (Misc Fees and Plot Updates) No. 2484, 2025” (Bylaw Amendment) to update certain fees and definitions in the “Cemetery Management Bylaw No. 2367, 2023” (Bylaw). The Bylaw includes the fee schedule for Cemetery fees and charges (Fee Schedule).

☐ Information Report ☒ Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

DISCUSSION

Background

The Whistler Cemetery (Cemetery) is a 1.32 hectare (3.27 acre) property located on Alta Lake Road. Currently, a small portion of the parcel (0.80 acres) is developed for cemetery use. The remainder of the site is undeveloped second growth forest and is being held for future Cemetery needs. Since 1986, the Cemetery has provided for the burial of human bodies and human cremains. In 2003, a columbarium niche for the above ground burial of cremated remains and a scattering garden for the dispersal of ashes were added to the Cemetery. In 2023, new in-ground double cremation plots were added, in response to increased need for cremation-specific plots.

The Cemetery is operated by two departments at the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW). The Resort Operations Department maintains the Cemetery grounds and the Legislative Services Department is responsible for the sale and administration of plots. The Bylaw was modernized and

adopted in 2023 and governs the activities of the Cemetery and it complies with the requirements of the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act* and associated regulations.

Analysis

Since the Bylaw was adopted in 2023, it has served as the guiding document for new plot purchases and other Cemetery requests. During this time, staff have identified a few updates to the Bylaw that will better capture fees and charges, as well as clarifying some definitions. These are discussed in the subsections below.

Memorial Marker Fees

Staff have identified that the current Fee Schedule does not capture the total fees associated with the purchase and engraving of memorial markers for the Columbaria Niches and Scattering Garden (Markers). In particular, the shipping and engraving fees for the Markers had either increased faster than the permitted consumer price index amount authorized in the Bylaw or had not been factored into the total cost.

In addition, staff recommend adding a fee for the removal and re-installation of a Marker for cases where a Marker is being engraved with the details for the second loved one, upon their passing.

Summary of Proposed Fee Changes

1. The following fees are added to Schedule 'A': Cemetery Fees 2025 under the section entitled "MEMORIALS" in the corresponding sections.

MEMORIALS	PROPOSED
In-Ground Lot: Memorial Marker Removal & Re-Installation	\$362.74
Columbaria Niche: Shipping Fees for Markers**	\$100.00
Scattering Memorial: Bronze Plaque & Engraving**	\$300.00
Scattering Memorial: Shipping Fees for Markers**	\$50.00

2. That the following fees currently included in Schedule 'A': Cemetery Fees 2025 under the section entitled "MEMORIALS" are updated as follows:

Columbaria Niche: Panel Engraving**	\$530.00
Scattering Memorial: Installation	\$362.74

** Subject to PST.

Other Updates

The Amendment Bylaw proposes to update the following sections:

- a) Section 3 amends the definition of "Resident" to clarify the requirement to provide government identification to verify residency in Whistler.
- b) Section 9.1 will be updated to include a new section with the specific dimensions for an urn interred in the Columbarium Niche.

A redlined version of the Bylaw is included as Appendix A to show the proposed updates to the Bylaw.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Section 8(f) of the *Community Charter* states that “a council may, by bylaw, regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to cemeteries, crematoriums and mausoleums and the interment or other disposition of the dead.”

The operation of municipal cemeteries in British Columbia is regulated by the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act* and the associated regulations.

Relevant Council Authority/Previous Decisions

[June 20, 2023, Administrative Report: Cemetery Management Bylaw No. 2367, 2023](#)

2023-2026 Strategic Plan

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan outlines the high-level direction of the RMOW to help shape community progress during this term of Council. The Strategic Plan contains four priority areas with various associated initiatives that support them. This section identifies how this report links to the Strategic Plan.

Strategic Priorities

☐ Housing

Expedite the delivery of and longer-term planning for employee housing

☐ Climate Action

Mobilize municipal resources toward the implementation of the Big Moves Climate Action Plan

☐ Community Engagement

Strive to connect locals to each other and to the RMOW

☐ Smart Tourism

Preserve and protect Whistler's unique culture, natural assets and infrastructure

☒ Not Applicable

Aligns with core municipal work that falls outside the strategic priorities but improves, maintains, updates and/or protects existing and essential community infrastructure or programs

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 Cemetery moves the RMOW toward our Community Vision by ensuring adequate provision of land and support for the resort community's needs, whilst also preserving the Whistler Cemetery's tranquil and forested character. Specific sections of the OCP that are applicable include:

6.4.1.1 Policy: Support the user-pay approach to municipal services while taking into consideration affordability measures and the policies of this OCP.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Updates to the Fee Schedule reflect the costs of operating and maintaining this service for the community. Collecting adequate fees enables the RMOW to provide a high level of support and service to community members.

LÍLWAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lílwat 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 planning on unceded territories, as currently managed by the provincial government; 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

The new Cemetery Fee Schedule will be posted on whistler.ca/cemetery to ensure members of the community have the most up to date fees.

REFERENCES

Appendix A – “Cemetery Management Bylaw No. 2367, 2023” – redlined with changes

Cemetery Management Amendment Bylaw (Misc Fees and Plot Updates) No. 2484, 2025 (Included in Council package)

SUMMARY

This report requests Council's consideration of first, second and third reading for “Cemetery Management Amendment Bylaw (Misc Fees and Plot Updates), No. 2484, 2025” to update some fees related to the memorial markers and provide clarity to certain definitions.

SIGN-OFFS

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Reviewed by:

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