



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION
COMMITTEE (AIC)
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 05, 2022, STARTING AT 9:00 A.M.
Remote Meeting held Via Zoom

PRESENT	*Mtgs. YTD (4)
Accommodation Sector, D. Andrews	3
Member at Large, O. Rey	1
Member at Large, S. Lawther	4
Tourism Whistler, M. Klau	4
Vail Resorts, L. Fowler	3
Whistler Adaptive Sports Program, S. Milstein	4
Whistler Chamber of Commerce, D. Chan	1
Whistler Community Services Society, J. Dickinson	3
Whistler Mature Action Community, K. White	4
Whistler Mature Action Community, D. Ashton	2
Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) Councillor, J. Ford	3
RMOW Manager of Planning – Policy and AIC Secretary, C. Beaubien	4
RMOW Accessibility Coordinator, S. Tipler	4
RMOW AIC Recording Secretary, V. Quach	4
RMOW Planning Analyst, J. Rees	
RMOW Manager Resort Parks Planning, M. Pardoe	
RMOW Resort Parks Planner, L. Russell	
REGRETS	
Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre	0
* For organizations, the number reflects the number of meetings attended by the organization's representatives.	

CALL TO ORDER

AIC recognized the Resort Municipality of Whistler is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lil'wat People, known in their language as Lil'wat7úl, and the Squamish People, known in their language as Skwxwú7mesh. We respect and commit to a deep consideration of their history, culture, stewardship and voice.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by D. Andrews
Seconded by D. Ashton

That AIC adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of Wednesday, October 05, 2022.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by O. Rey
Seconded by J. Dickinson

That AIC adopt the Regular Committee Minutes of June 01, 2022 as circulated.

CARRIED

NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF CO-CHAIR

Moved by S. Lawther
Seconded by J. Dickinson

That AIC select D. Ashton as Co-chair.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Rainbow Park
Rejuvenation

M. Pardoe presented two phases of the rejuvenation plans for Rainbow Park.

With regard to Phase 1, the parking, shuttle drop off area, path through the parking area and Valley Trail were discussed:

1. Pay parking will not be applied to the accessible parking spots.
2. Accessible parking stalls have been increased from two to four stalls.
3. A new accessible asphalt sidewalk to/from the new bus drop-off zone on Alta Lake Road has been added.

With regard to Phase 2, the following was discussed:

1. Maps showing the main area of the park and the concept plan.
2. Hard surface pathway to the water's edge and docks.
3. New dock with an accessible water lift.
4. Increasing picnicking opportunities.

Valley Trail Design

M. Pardoe made a presentation on the Valley Trail Design Guidelines (VTDG) and review. The following was discussed:

1. The VTDG were completed in 2019 to update earlier guidelines. The VTDG document will guide future design.
2. The VTDG reflect current considerations and the built environment in a mountain landscape.
3. The proposed rest area size does not easily accommodate someone using a mobility device, and it would be ideal to add a rest bench. Staff will revisit this part of the VTDG.
4. There are existing accessibility concerns on the Valley Trail, including cars parking on the trail edge at Green Lake and garbage receptacles intruding onto the trail. There are option improvements like line painting and seasonal vertical barriers.
5. Criteria used to establish priority in the review were safety, road conditions, cost, crash history, and warning signs.

AIC discussed the following:

1. Nicklaus North and Spruce Grove/Nesters crossings are challenging for people using mobility devices as they are unable to activate pedestrian signals because the traffic islands lack curb cuts. It was noted that this is outside the RMOW's jurisdiction, but will be shared with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
2. There are concerns regarding speed on the Valley Trail. It is necessary to communicate speed considerations to the broad range of Valley Trail users.
3. There are concerns about the lack of seated rest areas on the Valley Trail.
4. There is not enough lighting in certain areas of the Valley Trail.
5. There is a need to give consideration to Highway 99 and working with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to improve the experience for e-bike users along the Highway.

Review of Geo-region
Planning

L. Russell shared a presentation on geo-region planning. The presentation provided a high level overview of the planning process and displayed concept designs and contemplated materials. The presentation discussed the following:

1. The Geopark Society is determining the feasibility of the Geopark and exploring operating models. The goal is to achieve a UNESCO designation.
2. The envisioned Geopark will contribute to long-term economic growth and social well-being of communities throughout the Sea to Sky region.
3. The benefits of establishing the Geopark could assist with reconciliation with Lil'wat Nation and Squamish Nation. Lil'wat Nation and Squamish Nation are involved in the initiative. The UNESCO designation, can bring more opportunity through preservation, conservation and cooperation, and can attract funding.
4. The planning purpose is to provide opportunities to allow all of the stakeholders to express their goals with the project development.
5. Whistler has four potential geosites.

AIC discussed the following:

1. The pavers should be large enough and beveled as much as possible to reduce vibration.
2. There should be alignment between inclusion and reconciliation and attracting cultural-based tourists to Whistler.
3. It is important to integrate low energy lighting, accessible washrooms and rest spots.
4. Multi-lingual signage, potentially with QR codes, would allow people with visual impairments to use screen readers as well as provide further information about the site.
5. Good educational tourism would be appealing to older adults to both visit the sites as well as be volunteer hosts at the sites. This could also begin some essential conservations about Indigenous heritage.
6. Plans to update the Sea to Sky Trail to make it more accessible are seen as a related project.
7. The AIC will be able to provide input on the detailed design process.

8. It is important to manage potential over-tourism by encouraging people to come by foot and bike. Relatedly, it is essential there is an accessible route to the sites.

OTHER BUSINESS

Moved by D. Ashton
Seconded by D. Chan

That AIC receive correspondence from L. Ansot regarding concerns about access to breastfeeding-friendly spaces and convenience parking for parents of infants and young children in Whistler.

CARRIED

AIC discussed the following:

1. There is a need to have more supportive breastfeeding-friendly spaces (e.g., benches) and more signage to identify these spaces.
2. Parking at all local grocery stores is on private property.
3. There is a need to reach out to businesses to support and promote breastfeeding-friendly spaces and convenience parking for parents of infants and young children.

Moved by O. Rey
Seconded by D. Andrews

That AIC receive correspondence from M. Pupo regarding signage to address the public creating barriers on accessible infrastructure in Whistler.

CARRIED

AIC discussed the following:

1. There is a need to consider an inventory of bike racks in terms of: are there enough racks; and are they in the right places.
2. There is a need to have adequate signage to indicate bike parking is not allowed on ramps.
3. Creating a municipal feedback channel on accessibility is an action of the Accessibility Action Plan.

MOTION TO TERMINATE


Moved by O. Rey
Seconded by D. Andrews

That the AIC meeting of Wednesday, October 05, 2022 be terminated at 11:03 a.m.

CARRIED



S. Lawther
Chair



C. Beaubien
Secretary