

Date: April 10, 2008



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: English Bay Bistro

RECOMMENDATION

A. THAT the Board approve the attached design concept for the English Bay Bistro for public consultation.

BACKGROUND

The Park Board developed and approved an overall plan for the redevelopment of its concession food services on May 1, 2006. The plan recommended a strategy which would see the creation of new tenant built and operated food services offering both table service and take-away facilities at prime locations in city park locations. These would offer a higher level of service and improved food quality and choice over what had currently been offered by the aging concession system.

The initial new facility, which predated the completion of the plan, was the Mill Marine Bistro in Harbour Green Park. It has been noted as the summer afternoon place to go in a number of entertainment surveys. In July 2005 the Watermark Restaurant at Kitsilano Beach opened and has been well received by both the local and broader community. It also garnered a number of design accolades.

DISCUSSION

The subsequent identified locations for new facilities were a site-integrated with the Convention Centre expansion on Harbour Green Park and the redevelopment of the concession at the west foot of Denman Street on English Bay. The former has been delayed by the construction of the Convention Centre and combined with the site isolation related to the Olympic media centre, the project cannot proceed until the Summer of 2010.

The latter English Bay site has become the priority and has reached a design development stage that can be taken for public discussion. The design was presented at the Committee of the Board on March 17, 2008.

The attached schematic plans (Appendix 1) set out the proposed design for the bistro, including indoor and outdoor seating and a take-away kiosk. It is relatively small at approximately 380 square meters and 75 indoor seats.

CONCLUSION

Staff propose to undertake a community consultation process over the next two months and will return to the Board with the findings of that consultation and design responses in June. With the Board's agreement, the project would then proceed to development permit application and an RFP for a developer/operator in late 2008.

Prepared by:

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