

Date: June 26, 2008



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

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the redevelopment of the existing English Bay (Denman Street) concession and request staff to seek a development permit.

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 Board approved the design of a new replacement for the English Bay concession at its meeting of April 10, 2008 to go to public consultation.

DISCUSSION

The consultative process involved the following activities:

1. The project page was placed on the Park Board website with a request that readers express their views to the Park Board comment email. 14 responses were received;
2. Seven articles appeared in various Vancouver newspapers including the Vancouver Sun. The project was also discussed a number of times on radio including CBC;
3. A pre-advertised public open house was held at the Park Board office on the evening of June 12th; and
4. A pre-advertised open house on the beach site was held on June 14th from 11am to 4pm.

Questionnaires were distributed at the two events. The results are part of the following table of overall responses.

Date	Feedback Forms Rec'd	Support	Oppose	Don't Know
Thursday, June 12, 2008	32	14 43.8%	12 37.5%	6 18.8%
Saturday, June 14, 2008	149	124 83.2%	22 14.8%	3 2.0%
Subtotal feedback forms	181	138 76.2%	34 18.8%	9 5.0%
Website response/emails to June 18	14	5 35.7%	7 50.0%	2 14.3%
TOTAL feedback received	195	143 73.3%	41 21.0%	11 5.6%

Comments were also recorded and a general summary of major points is included as Appendix 1. As seen in the table, the proposal to redevelop elicited 73% support, with another 5% undecided on the issue. Given the strong support for the project, staff recommend that the Board proceed with the next step of the 2006 food services plan and approve the redevelopment of the English Bay concession.

The next steps will be the filing of a development permit application and upon receiving a development permit (probably late October) issuing a Request for Proposals for a development partner/operator. Assuming an RFP award in January 2009 and subsequent working drawings, building permit and construction, the new facility should be open for summer 2010.

CONCLUSION

The 2006 food service plan set the direction for the Board over the next decade. The redevelopment of seawall concessions like English Bay was recommended. The current proposal has been well received by approximately three quarters of the respondents. Staff therefore recommend that the project proceed.

Prepared by:

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