English Bay Bistro Public Consultation Summary of Comments June 2008

The following notes summarize comments received at the two open houses held on the proposed English Bay Bistro, as well as website and email comments received in June 2008.

General

In general, comments of support are to the effect that the addition will enhance the area - many comments of "about time". People opposed generally enjoy the current atmosphere and object to the development and/or the "commercialization" of the park (about 20 mention this). Several opposed note that there are already many bars and restaurants in the immediate area.

The design

Seven people opposed to the proposal dislike the design, in particular the glass wall. Twelve people in support specifically mention the design as being favourable.

There are several requests for special items to be considered: add public washrooms (three requests for this); ensure kiosk area is clearly defined to expedite orders (also a request for a separate window for coffee); include facilities for private events; don't remove any trees; put in an elevator for seniors and wheelchair users; provide WiFi access; incorporate historical details (like Sylvia Hotel); make the colour more natural (also, one vote for "love the colour").

There were four requests for a covered/heated/convertible/indoor area provided for kiosk customers for rainy/cool/winter days.

The view / public access to roof

There are 13 expressions of concern over the roof height; specifically that it blocks the view. One opposed does not like the seating on the deck. One supporter likes the increased seating provided by the deck.

The menu / liquor

Eight people specifically mention opposition to liquor sales. Three people express support for liquor sales. Three people request that fish and chips be mandatory at the new kiosk/concession. There are 13 mentions of quality and/or healthy food choices, to the effect that the current concession has bad quality food and that the new concession should have better quality food and/or healthier food choices available.

Sustainability

There are two requests for a bike lock-up area, two requests for the building to be LEED certified; one request to reuse some of the existing building ("zero ecological footprint") and one request to consider composting.

Noise, parking and congestion concerns

There are 10 mentions of noise concerns, ranging from late openings to construction noise. Eight people (both opposed and in support) express concern about lack of a plan for parking and/or congestion from additional traffic. Two people ask for an increased police presence.

One commenter asks for no loud music or amplifiers, while three specifically mention music as being important to the restaurant's atmosphere/environment.

Affordability

People opposed and people in support both express concern about keeping the menu affordable, particularly for families. In all, 13 comment forms mentioned this.