

2520-02-04

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November 10, 2009

Mayor and Council  
District of West Vancouver  
750 - 17th Street  
West Vancouver, BC V7V 3T3

Dear Mayor and Council,

I have talked with a number of architects, landscape architects, planners and artists and they share my concern for the location and character of the proposed Fish and Chips Concession to be located in Ambleside Landing. My concerns are as follows:

**Location:**

Ambleside Landing is a well-used multipurpose civic space. The large lawn area on the east of the 14<sup>th</sup> street allowance is a gathering space for a multitude of summer events most notably, the Harmony Arts Festival. During this event the fountain becomes a stage with the surrounding walks and steps providing seating. From Bellevue and Argyle the openness of this space provides Ambleside By-the-Sea it's most iconic view.

The request for proposals showed an area in the lawn immediately adjacent the walkway at the edge of the fountain extending west into the 14<sup>th</sup> Street road allowance. The location shown will provide a visual barrier across the east part of the site. (see the before and after images) A northwest orientation should be considered at a less central location where it will be less disruptive of the view and less conflict with other uses of the lawn area.

When Ron Wood was Mayor the Floral Clock was proposed for this location and with the citizens and merchants outcry, he moved it to a less disruptive location, the end of 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Architectural Character:**

In the "A Vision for Ambleside: West Vancouver Museum", it refers to the great value of West Vancouver's distinct West Coast architecture. The report goes on to quote *The Poetics of West Coast Modernism in West Vancouver, 2005*.

If character of the architecture of a civic building on Marine Drive and 14<sup>th</sup> is important because of its location certainly a building on the waterfront at 14<sup>th</sup>, just across the street, is equally if not more important and should also celebrate and recognize West Vancouver's distinctive West Coast architecture.

**Process:**

For most of us, the announcement in the North Shore News that, "*Preliminary approval for a movable fish and chips stand at Ambleside Landing, ... was passed by District of West Vancouver council during the regular council meeting on Monday.*" was the first we had heard of the idea. Not only did the process appear to lack much public involvement, it did not appear as a result of a thorough study of the many programs for Ambleside Landing.

Although I, and the others I talked with, support the idea, the request for proposal is specific in location, architectural character (modified container), type of food served and the suggested pricing. It appears to close the options for other built forms and other food service proponents.

**Request:**

To postpone any decision regarding the proposals until the public has had a chance to be involved in the decision and council has receives their comments.

Sincerely,