GRILL CONCEPTS INC Form PRE 14A April 25, 2008

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

		(Amendment No)
Filed	I by the Registrant x	Filed by a Party other than the Registrant "
Check the appropriate box:		
X	Preliminary Proxy Statement	
	Confidential, For Use of the Com	nmission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
	Definitive Proxy Statement	
	Definitive Additional Materials	
	Soliciting Material under Rule 14a	-12

GRILL CONCEPTS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Paym	nent of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):
Į.	No fee required.
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(5)	Date Filed:		

GRILL CONCEPTS, INC.

6300 Canoga Avenue, Suite 1700

Woodland Hills, California 91367

April [], 2008

Dear Stockholder:

We cordially invite you to attend our 2008 annual meeting of stockholders, which will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at the offices of Grill Concepts, Inc. at 6300 Canoga Avenue, Suite 1700, Woodland Hills, CA 91367.

At this year s annual meeting, the agenda will include the election of directors, consideration and voting on a proposal to increase the shares reserved under the Grill Concepts, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, consideration and voting on a proposal to amend the company s certificate of incorporation to increase the authorized shares of common stock, the ratification of the selection of our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2008 and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Please refer to the enclosed proxy statement for detailed information on each of these proposals and other important information about Grill Concepts.

We hope you will be able to attend the annual meeting, but we know that not every stockholder will be able to do so. Whether or not you plan to attend, please complete, sign and return your proxy, or vote by telephone or via the Internet according to the instructions on the proxy card, so that your shares will be voted at the annual meeting.

Sincerely,

Robert Spivak Co-Chairman of the Board

Michael Weinstock Co-Chairman of the Board

GRILL CONCEPTS, INC.

6300 Canoga Avenue, Suite 1700

Woodland Hills, California 91367

NOTICE OF 2008 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

JUNE 12, 2008

Dear Stockholder:

The annual meeting of stockholders of Grill Concepts, Inc. will be held 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at the offices of Grill Concepts, Inc. at 6300 Canoga Avenue, Suite 1700, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. The purpose of the annual meeting is to:

- 1. Elect seven directors to hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.
- 2. Approve an amendment to the Grill Concepts, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan to increase the number of shares of common stock issuable thereunder by 500,000 shares.
- 3. Approve an amendment to our certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock from 12,000,000 shares to 15,000,000 shares.
- 4. Ratify the selection of Moss Adams LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2008 fiscal year.
- 5. Transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 21, 2008 will be entitled to vote at the annual meeting and any and all adjourned sessions thereof. Our stock transfer books will remain open.

To ensure that your vote is recorded promptly, please vote as soon as possible. If you are a stockholder of record, please complete, sign and mail the proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. If your shares are held in street name, that is held for your account by a broker or other nominee, you will receive instructions from the holder of record that you must follow for your shares to be voted.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Robert Spivak *Co-Chairman*

Michael Weinstock Co-Chairman

Los Angeles, California

April [], 2008

GRILL CONCEPTS, INC.

6300 Canoga Avenue, Suite 1700

Woodland Hills, California 91367

PROXY STATEMENT

Our board of directors is soliciting your proxy for the annual meeting of stockholders to be held at the offices of Grill Concepts, Inc at 6300 Canoga Avenue, Suite 1700, Woodland Hills, CA 91367, on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. and at any and all adjourned sessions of the annual meeting.

We are mailing our annual report for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2007, to our stockholders with this notice and proxy statement (including the form of proxy) on or about May 5, 2008.

Record Date and Quorum Requirements

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 21, 2008 will be entitled to vote at the annual meeting. At the close of business on April 21, 2008, we had 8,797,730 shares of common stock issued and outstanding.

A majority of the outstanding shares of common stock as of the record date must be present at the meeting in order to hold the meeting and conduct business. This is called a quorum. A stockholder s shares are counted as present at the meeting if the stockholder is present at the meeting and votes in person or a proxy card has been properly submitted by the stockholder or on the stockholder s behalf. Both abstentions and broker non-votes are counted as present for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum.

Broker non-votes are shares of common stock held by brokers or nominees over which the broker or nominee lacks discretionary power to vote and for which the broker or nominee has not received specific voting instructions from the beneficial owner.

Voting Your Shares and Votes Required

Your vote is very important. If you do not vote your shares, you will not have an impact with respect to the issues to be voted on at this annual meeting. In addition, banks and brokers cannot vote on their clients behalf on non-routine proposals without your specific voting instructions.

The holders of all outstanding shares of common stock are entitled to one vote for each share of common stock registered in their names on the books of our company at the close of business on the record date. Additionally, every stockholder voting for the election of directors may cumulate such stockholder s votes and give one candidate a number of votes equal to the number of directors to be elected multiplied by the number of shares held by the stockholder as of the record date, or distribute such stockholder s votes on the same principle among as many candidates as the stockholder may select, provided that votes cannot be cast for more than the number of directors to be elected. However, no stockholder shall be entitled to cumulate votes unless the candidate s name has been placed in nomination prior to the voting and the stockholder, or any other stockholder, has given notice at the meeting prior to the voting of the intention to cumulate the stockholder s votes.

In order to be elected as directors, each of the nominees for director must receive a plurality of the votes cast at the annual meeting. Approval of the proposed amendment to our 2006 Equity Incentive Plan and ratification of the selection of Moss Adams LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2008 fiscal year will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock present or represented by proxy at the annual meeting. Approval of the proposed amendment to our certificate of incorporation will require the affirmative vote of a majority of all shares outstanding.

For purposes of determining the outcome of any matter, shares represented in person or by proxy at the meeting but abstaining from voting on a particular proposal and broker non-votes will each be treated as not present and not entitled to vote with respect to that matter, even though the shares of common stock are considered entitled to vote for the purposes of determining a quorum and may be entitled to vote on other matters. Therefore, abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as a vote against the proposed amendment of our certificate of incorporation.

Submitting Your Proxy

If you complete and submit your proxy, the persons named as proxies will vote the shares represented by your proxy in accordance with your instructions. If you submit a proxy card but do not fill out the voting instructions on the proxy card, the persons named as proxies will vote the shares represented by your proxy as follows:

FOR the election of the director nominees;

FOR amendment of the 2006 Equity Incentive Plan to increase the shares authorized thereunder;

FOR amendment of our certificate of incorporation to increase the shares authorized; and

FOR the ratification of the selection of Moss Adams LLP as our registered public accounting firm.

To ensure that your vote is recorded promptly, please vote as soon as possible. To vote by proxy, please complete, sign and mail the proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

Stockholders that attend the annual meeting and wish to vote in person will be given a ballot at the meeting. If your shares are held in street name and you want to attend the annual meeting, you must bring an account statement or letter from the brokerage firm or bank holding your shares showing that you were the beneficial owner of the shares on the record date. If you want to vote shares that are held in street name or are otherwise not registered in your name, you will need to obtain a legal proxy from the holder of record and present it at the annual meeting.

Revoking or Changing Your Proxy

You may revoke or change your proxy at any time before it is voted. For a stockholder of record, meaning one whose shares are registered in his or her own name, to revoke or change a proxy, the stockholder may follow one of the procedures listed below.

submit another properly signed proxy, which bears a later date;

deliver a written revocation to our corporate secretary; or

attend the annual meeting or any adjourned session thereof and vote in person.

If you are a beneficial owner of our common stock, and not the stockholder of record (for example your common stock is registered in street name with a brokerage firm), you must follow the procedures required by the holder of record, which is usually a brokerage firm or bank, to revoke or change a proxy. You should contact the stockholder of record directly for more information on these procedures.

Other Information

We will bear the expense of soliciting proxies. Our officers and certain other employees, without additional remuneration, may solicit proxies personally or by telephone, e-mail or other means.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 30, 2007, which is not part of the proxy soliciting materials, is included with this Proxy Statement.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The table below shows the number of our shares of common stock beneficially owned as of April 21, 2008 by:

each person or group known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our outstanding common stock;

each director and nominee for director;

each executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table under the heading Executive Compensation below; and

all of our current directors and executive officers of the company as a group.

The number of shares beneficially owned by each 5% holder, director or executive officer is determined by the rules of the SEC, and the information does not necessarily indicate beneficial ownership for any other purpose. Under such rules, beneficial ownership includes any shares over which the person or entity has sole or shared voting power or investment power and also any shares that the person or entity can acquire within 60 days of April 21, 2008 through the exercise of any stock option or other right. For purposes of computing the percentage of outstanding shares of common stock held by each person or entity, any shares that the person or entity has the right to acquire within 60 days after April 21, 2008 are deemed to be outstanding with respect to such person or entity but are not deemed to be outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage of ownership of any other person or entity. Unless otherwise indicated, each person or entity has sole investment and voting power (or shares such power with his or her spouse) over the shares set forth in the following table. The inclusion in the table below of any shares deemed beneficially owned does not constitute an admission of beneficial ownership of those shares. As of April 21, 2008, there were 8,797,730 shares of common stock issued and outstanding.

	Shares of Common Stock	Percentage of Common Stock
Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Beneficially Owned	Outstanding
Eaturna LLC (1)	1,344,479(1)	15.1%
Charles N. Mathewson (2)	905,947 ⁽²⁾	10.3%
Magnetar Capital Partners LLC (3)	797,740 ⁽³⁾	9.1%
Michael Weinstock* (4)	514,565 ⁽⁵⁾	5.8%
Robert Spivak* (4)	451,091 ⁽⁶⁾	5.1%
Stephen Ross*	173,167 ⁽⁷⁾	2.0%
Philip Gay*	49,603 (8)	
Glenn Golenberg*	68,875 ⁽⁹⁾	
John Sola	66,734 ⁽¹⁰⁾	
Louie Feinstein	19,518 ⁽¹¹⁾	
Bruce Schwartz*	29,250 ⁽¹²⁾	
Rudolph Borneo*	8,250(13)	
Wayne Lipschitz	17,200(14)	
All directors and executive officers as a group (10 persons)	$1,398,253^{(15)}$	15.2%

^{*} Director of our company
Less than 1% of the shares of total common stock outstanding as of April 21, 2008.

(1) Address is 8635 Kittyhawk Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Based upon information regarding Grill Concepts, Inc. holdings reported on a Schedule 13D/A filed with the SEC on July 17, 2007 by Eaturna LLC, Eaturna Holdings LLC, Good Tasting LLC, Tuscany Oaks Partners I, LLC, Lori A. Milken, Michael R. Milken and Robert Fell. The shares include (a) 923,873 shares held of record by Eaturna LLC, (b) 113,560 shares held of record, and 39,746 shares underlying warrants held of record, by Good Tasting LLC, and (c) 198,000 shares held of record, and 69,300 shares underlying warrants held of record, by Tuscany Oaks Partners I, LLC. Eaturna Holdings LLC and Good Tasting LLC have the power to elect a majority of the board of directors of Eaturna LLC. Lori A. Milken may be deemed the controlling person of Eaturna Holdings LLC, Good Tasting LLC and Eaturna LLC. Michael R. Milken is the spouse of Lori A. Milken and, as such, may be deemed to share the power to vote and dispose of the shares over which Mrs. Milken is deemed to hold control. Mr. Milken disclaims any beneficial interest in the shares. Robert Fell is a member of Eaturna LLC and is manager of Tuscany Oaks Partners I, LLC.

Eaturna LLC acquired the shares indicated from Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc. on March 6, 2007 pursuant to the terms of a Subscription Agreement under which Starwood contributed the shares plus cash in exchange for 6,085 Preferred B Units of Eaturna. Under the terms of the Subscription Agreement, Starwood also transferred to Eaturna LLC certain rights under a Development Agreement and various other agreements between Starwood and Grill Concepts pursuant to which certain warrants to purchase Grill Concepts common stock may be issued from time to time in the future.

The Subscription Agreement provides that in the event Eaturna is deemed to have become the owner of 15% or more of our outstanding voting stock without having first obtained the approval of our Board of Directors, Starwood will, upon the request of Eaturna, immediately purchase such number of the securities, or accept a reassignment of some or all of the ancillary rights as is necessary to cause Eaturna to own less than 15% of our outstanding voting stock. The Subscription Agreement further provides that if Eaturna proposes to sell all or substantially all of its assets, which includes the shares acquired from Starwood, to certain designated parties, Starwood has the first right to purchase the offered assets upon the terms of the sale proposed by Eaturna. The Subscription Agreement further provides that if, within a year of the execution of the Subscription Agreement, one of the Company s liquidity events, as designated therein, occurs or is announced, Eaturna will issue additional Preferred B Units to Starwood if other specified conditions are met.

- (2) Address is 9295 Prototype Drive, Reno, Nevada 89521. Based upon information regarding Grill Concepts, Inc. holdings reported on a Schedule 13D/A filed with the SEC on March 12, 2008 by Charles N. Mathewson. Includes 865,277 shares of common stock and 40,670 shares underlying warrants. All shares and warrants are held of record by The Charles N. Mathewson Trust, of which Charles N. Mathewson is the sole trustee.
- (3) Address is 1603 Orrington Avenue, 13th Floor, Evanston, Illinois. Based upon information regarding Grill Concepts, Inc. holdings reported on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 13, 2008 by Magnetar Financial LLC, Magnetar Capital Partners LLC, Supernova Management LLC and Alec N. Litowitz. The shares include (a) 547,967 shares held for the account of Magnetar Capital Master Fund Ltd. and (b) 249,773 shares held for certain managed accounts. Magnetar Capital Partners serves as the sole member and parent holding company of Magnetar Financial and Magnetar Investment Management LLC, both of which are registered investment advisors under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940. Magnetar Financial serves as investment advisor to Magnetar Capital Master Fund and has voting and dispositive power with respect to the shares held by Magnetar Capital Master Fund. Magnetar Investment Management serves as investment advisor to the managed accounts and has voting and dispositive power with respect to the shares held by the managed accounts. Supernova Management is the general partner of Magnetar Capital Partners and Alec Litowitz is manager of Supernova Management and each may be deemed to share voting and dispositive power with respect to all reported shares.

Excludes shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant held by the reporting persons because the terms of such warrant contain a blocker provision under which the holder thereof does not have the right to exercise such warrant to the extent that such exercise would result in beneficial ownership by the holder thereof, together with its affiliates, of more than 4.90% of the shares of common stock then issued and outstanding.

- (4) Address is 6300 Canoga Avenue, Suite 1700, Woodland Hills, California 91367.
- (5) Excludes certain shares held by Mr. Weinstock s spouse, children and certain trusts for the benefit of family members. Mr. Weinstock disclaims any beneficial interest in such shares.
- (6) Excludes certain shares held by Mr. Spivak s spouse, children and certain trusts for the benefit of family members. Mr. Spivak disclaims any beneficial interest in such shares. Includes 125,000 stock options that may be exercised within 60 days of April 21, 2008.

- (7) Includes (a) 138,167 shares of common stock held by Stephen Ross and Rachel Ross as co-trustees of the Ross Family Trust and (b) 35,000 stock options that may be exercised by Mr. Ross within 60 days of April 21, 2008.
- (8) Includes (a) 97 shares held by Traci D. Gay Custodian for Lauren Eden Gay UTMA, (b) 40 shares held by Traci D. Gay Custodian for Ilysee Rebecca Gay UTMA and (c) 49,466 stock options that may be exercised by Mr. Gay within 60 days of April 21, 2008. Traci D. Gay is the spouse of Mr. Gay.
- (9) Includes 40,000 stock options that may be exercised by Mr. Golenberg within 60 days of April 21, 2008.
- (10) Includes 53,750 stock options that may be exercised by Mr. Sola within 60 days of April 21, 2008.
- (11) Includes 19,150 stock options that may be exercised by Mr. Feinstein within 60 days of April 21, 2008.
- (12) Includes 26,250 stock options that may be exercised by Mr. Schwartz within 60 days of April 21, 2008.
- (13) Includes 8,250 stock options that may be exercised by Mr. Borneo within 60 days of April 21, 2008.
- (14) Includes 9,000 stock options that may be exercised by Mr. Lipschitz within 60 days of April 21, 2008.
- (15) Includes 382,700 stock options that may be exercised by directors and executive officers, as a group, within 60 days of April 21, 2008.

PROPOSAL 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The first proposal to be voted on is the election of seven directors. The board s nominees are Robert Spivak, Michael Weinstock, Philip Gay, Glenn Golenberg, Stephen Ross, Bruce Schwartz and Rudolph Borneo. Each of the nominees is currently serving as a director of the Company. If elected, each of the nominees will serve a one-year term and will be subject to reelection next year along with the other directors.

Biographical information about each of the nominees is included below. There are no family relationships among any of our directors, nominees for director and executive officers.

The board of directors has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to serve or decline to serve as a director if elected. If a nominee becomes unable or unwilling to accept nomination or election, the board will either select a substitute nominee or will reduce the size of the board. If you have submitted a proxy and a substitute nominee is selected, your shares will be voted for the election of the substitute nominee.

In accordance with the company s bylaws, directors are elected by a plurality vote of shares represented and entitled to vote at the meeting. That means the seven nominees will be elected if they receive more affirmative votes than any other nominees. In accordance with applicable law, in electing directors, stockholders may cumulate their votes and give one candidate a number of votes equal to the number of directors to be elected multiplied by the number of shares held by the stockholder as of the record date, or distribute such stockholder s votes on the same principle among as many candidates as the stockholder may select, provided that votes cannot be cast for more than the number of directors to be elected. However, no stockholder shall be entitled to cumulate votes unless the candidate s name has been placed in nomination prior to the voting and the stockholder, or any other stockholder, has given notice at the meeting prior to the voting of the intention to cumulate the stockholder s votes.

Director Nominees

Rudolph Borneo

Age: 67 Mr. Borneo is Vice Chairman and Director of Stores of Macy s West, a division of Macy s Inc., and, prior to assuming his current position, served as President of Macy s California and Macy s West. Mr. Borneo serves as a director of Motor Car

Director since 2007 Parts of America, Inc., a publicly traded company that remanufactures starters and alternators.

Philip Gay

Age: 50

Director since 2006

Mr. Gay has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer, and as a director, since July 2006. Previously, Mr. Gay served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from July 2004 until his promotion in 2006. From March 2000 until he joined Grill Concepts in July 2004, Mr. Gay served as Managing Director of Triple Enterprises, a business advisory firm that assisted mid-cap sized companies with financing, mergers and acquisitions, franchising and strategic planning. From March 2000 to November 2001, Mr. Gay served as an independent consultant with El Paso Energy. Previously he served as Chief Financial Officer for California Pizza Kitchen (1987 to 1994), Chief Financial Officer and Interim Chief Executive Officer for Wolfgang Puck Food Company (1994 to 1996), Chief Executive Officer for Color Me Mine and held various Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive Officer positions with Diversified Food Group from 1996 to 2000. Mr. Gay is also on the Board of Motor Car Parts of America, Inc., a publicly traded company that remanufactures starters and alternators, and on the Board of The California Restaurant Association. He is a Certified Public Accountant, a former audit manager at Laventhol and Horwath and a graduate of the London School of Economics.

Glenn Golenberg

Age: 67

Director since 1995

Stephen Ross

Age: 59

Director since 2001

Bruce Schwartz

Age: 68

Director since 2004

Robert Spivak

Age: 64

Director since 1995

Michael Weinstock

Age: 65

Director since 1995

Mr. Golenberg is a Managing Director of Golenberg & Company, formed in 1978, and The Bellwether Group, LLC, merchant banking firms that invest in and provide consulting and financial advisory services to a broad range of businesses. Prior to forming Golenberg & Company, Mr. Golenberg served in various research and management positions in the investment banking industry from 1966 to 1978. Previously, Mr. Golenberg was a CPA with Arthur Andersen & Co.

Mr. Ross is Senior Vice President Recreational Enterprises, Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc. and has served in various management positions with Warner Bros since 1989. Previously, Mr. Ross served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Lorimar Telepictures Corporation, and its predecessors, from 1981 to 1989. Mr. Ross also serves as a director of j2 Global Communications, Inc.

of Los Angeles, Inc., a major food services company and subsidiary of NYSE traded Sysco Corporation. From 1989 to 1996, Mr. Schwartz served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Sysco Food Services and, from 1996 to 2003, Mr. Schwartz served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Sysco Food Services.

Mr. Schwartz served, from 1989 until his retirement in 2003, in various executive capacities with Sysco Food Services

Mr. Spivak served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company from 1995 until his retirement in 2006, as a director since 1995 and as Co-Chairman of the Board since 2007. Mr. Spivak was a co-founder of the company s predecessor (GCI) and served as President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of GCI from inception in 1988 until 1995. Prior to forming GCI, Mr. Spivak co-founded, and operated, The Grill on the Alley restaurant in Beverly Hills in 1984. Mr. Spivak is a founder and past president of the Beverly Hills Restaurant Association. Mr. Spivak also chairs the executive advisory board of the Collins School of Hotel and Restaurant Management at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona, is Director Emeritus of the California Restaurant Association and is a member of the Board of Directors of DiRoNA Distinguished Restaurants of North America.

Mr. Weinstock has served as Executive Vice President and a director of the Company since 1995 and as Chairman, and Co-Chairman, of the Board since 2000. From 1995 to 2000, Mr. Weinstock served as Vice-Chairman of the Board. Mr. Weinstock was a co-founder of GCI and served as Chairman of the Board, Vice President and a director of GCI from 1988 until 1995. Prior to forming GCI, Mr. Weinstock co-founded The Grill on the Alley restaurant in Beverly Hills in 1984. Mr. Weinstock previously served as President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of Morse Security Group, Inc., a security systems manufacturer.

6

OUR BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR EACH OF THE NOMINEES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SET FORTH IN THIS PROPOSAL 1.

In considering your vote with respect to the election of directors pursuant to Proposal 1, you should consider the discussions of Executive Compensation and Corporate Governance and the other discussions contained in this Proxy Statement.

PROPOSAL 2

AMENDMENT OF GRILL CONCEPTS, INC. 2006 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

On March 12, 2008, our board of directors adopted a proposed amendment to the Grill Concepts, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2006 Plan) to increase the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance upon the exercise of any stock options, stock appreciation rights (SARs), restricted stock or RSUs granted thereunder by 500,000 shares, subject to certain limits on the number of shares underlying grants other than options or SARs. The proposed amendment is subject to approval by the stockholders at the meeting.

As of April 21, 2008, a total of 500,000 shares were reserved under the 2006 Plan, including 357,059 shares underlying currently outstanding option grants. Accordingly, as of April 21, 2008, a total of 142,941 shares were available for future grants under the 2006 Plan.

The proposed amendment will increase the aggregate number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance under the 2006 Plan from 500,000 to 1,000,000, subject to antidilution adjustment, with a total of 642,941 being available for future grants under the 2006 Plan. The increase is proposed to provide sufficient shares of common stock to cover new award grants to enable the company to attract, retain and motivate directors, employees and designated consultants by providing for or increasing their economic interests in the success of the Company.

In connection with our stock-based compensation programs, we seek to balance the need to maintain a talented resource pool in a human-intensive and highly competitive business with efforts to closely monitor and reduce our stock option burn rate, which is defined as the number of options granted in a fiscal year divided by the gross number of shares of common stock outstanding at the end of that fiscal year.

Key Features of the 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended:

An independent committee of the Board of Directors administers the plan;
1,000,000 shares are authorized for grant under the plan;
Awards may not be granted later than 10 years from the effective date;
Awards may be stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance units, deferred compensation awards and other stock-based awards;
Stock options and stock appreciation rights may not be repriced without stockholder approval;
Stock options and stock appreciation rights may not be granted below fair market value;
Awards other than stock options and stock appreciation rights will be charged against the 2006 Plan share reserve at the rate of 2 shares for each share actually granted;

Shares tendered in payment of a stock option, shares withheld for taxes and shares repurchased by the company using stock option proceeds will not be available again for grant; and

The 2006 Plan reserve also will be reduced by the full amount of shares granted as stock appreciation rights, regardless of the number of shares upon which payment is made.

Summary of the 2006 Plan

The following is a summary of the material terms of the 2006 Plan, as amended. It is qualified in its entirety by the specific language of the 2006 Plan, which will be available at the meeting, or upon written request to the company, and the proposed amendment, which is included as Appendix A to this proxy statement and which is available to any stockholder upon request.

General

The 2006 Plan provides for the grant of incentive and nonstatutory stock options as well as stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance units and shares and other stock-based awards. Incentive stock options granted under the 2006 Plan are intended to qualify as incentive stock options within the meaning of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code). Nonstatutory stock options granted under the 2006 Plan are not intended to qualify as incentive stock options under the Code.

Purpose

The purpose of the 2006 Plan is to advance the interests of the company and our stockholders by providing an incentive to attract and retain persons eligible to receive grants under the 2006 Plan and by motivating such persons to contribute to the growth and profitability of the Company.

Administration

The 2006 Plan is administered by the board of directors (the Board) and its designees. The Board has the power to construe and interpret the 2006 Plan and, subject to the provisions of the 2006 Plan, to determine the persons to whom and the dates on which awards will be granted, the number of shares to be subject to each award, the time or times during the term of each award within which all or a portion of such award may be exercised, the exercise price, the type of consideration to be paid upon exercise of an award, and other terms of the award. The Board is authorized to delegate administration of the 2006 Plan to a committee of outside directors. The board has delegated administration of the 2006 Plan to the compensation committee of the Board. As used herein with respect to the 2006 Plan, the Board refers to the compensation committee, as well as to the board of directors itself.

Stock Subject to the 2006 Plan

The share reserve under the 2006 Plan, as amended, will be equal to 1,000,000 shares. If awards granted under the 2006 Plan expire, are cancelled or otherwise terminate without being exercised, the shares of common stock subject to such expired, cancelled or terminated awards will then be available for grant under the 2006 Plan.

Shares subject to stock options and stock appreciation rights will be charged against the 2006 Plan share reserve on the basis of one (1) share for each one (1) share granted. Shares subject to all other types of awards will be charged against the 2006 Plan share reserve on the basis of two (2) shares for each one (1) share granted. Any shares returned to the reserve as described above will be returned on the same basis as they are charged.

Eligibility

Awards, other than incentive stock options, generally may be granted only to employees, directors and consultants of the Company, or certain related entities or designated affiliates. An incentive stock option can only be granted to a person who, on the effective date of grant, is an employee of the company, a parent corporation or a subsidiary corporation. As of April 21, 2008, while approximately 2,300 employees would have been eligible for discretionary grants under the 2006 Plan, the company presently intends that only approximately 75 key restaurant-level employees and corporate employees will receive such grants.

No incentive stock options may be granted under the 2006 Plan to any person who, at the time of the grant, owns (or is deemed to own) stock possessing more than 10% of the total combined voting power of the Company, or any of its parent or subsidiary corporations, unless the option exercise price is at least 110% of the fair market value of the stock subject to the option on the date of grant, and the term of the option does not exceed 5 years from the date of grant. The aggregate fair market value, determined at the time of grant, of the shares of common stock with respect to which incentive stock options granted under the 2006 Plan are exercisable for the first time by an optionee during any calendar year (under all such plans of the company and its parent and subsidiary corporations) may not exceed \$100,000. In order to permit awards to qualify as performance based compensation under Code Section 162(m) no employee may be granted awards under the 2006 Plan in excess of the following in each fiscal year of the Company:

Stock options and stock appreciation rights: No more than 200,000 shares.

Restricted stock and restricted stock unit awards having vesting based upon the attainment of performance goals and performance share awards: No more than 100,000 shares in the aggregate.

Performance unit awards: No more than \$1,000,000 for each full fiscal year contained in the performance period of the award. **Stock Options and Stock Appreciation Rights**

The following is a description of the general terms of options and stock appreciation rights under the 2006 Plan. Individual grants may have terms that differ from those described below.

Exercise Price; Payment. The exercise price of incentive stock options under the 2006 Plan may not be less than the fair market value of the common stock subject to the option on the date of the option grant, and in some cases (see Eligibility above), may not be less than 110% of such fair market value. The exercise price of nonstatutory stock options and stock appreciation rights may not be less than the fair market value of the stock subject to the award on the date of the option grant. On April 21, 2008, the closing price of our common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Stock Market was \$3.70 per share. The exercise price of options granted under the 2006 Plan must be paid: (i) in cash, by check or cash equivalent, (ii) by tender to the Company, or attestation to the ownership of shares of common stock of the Company owned by the optionee having a fair market value not less than the exercise price, (iii) in any other form of legal consideration acceptable to the Board, or (iv) any combination of the above.

No Repricing. The 2006 Plan does not permit the company to lower the exercise price of options or stock appreciation rights or to exchange options or stock appreciation rights for awards with a lower exercise price without further stockholder approval.

Exercise. Options and stock appreciation rights granted under the 2006 Plan may become exercisable (vest) in cumulative increments as determined by the board provided that the holder semployment by, or service as a director or consultant to the company or certain related entities or designated affiliates (service) continues from the date of grant until the applicable vesting date. Shares covered by awards granted under the 2006 Plan may be subject to different vesting terms. The board has the power to accelerate the time during which an award may be exercised.

Term. The maximum term of options and stock appreciation rights under the 2006 Plan is ten years, except that in certain cases (see Eligibility above) the maximum term is five years. The 2006 Plan provides for earlier termination of an award due to the holder s cessation of service.

Restrictions on Transfer

Incentive stock options granted under the 2006 Plan may not be transferred except by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and may be exercised during the lifetime of the person to whom the option is granted only by such person. A nonstatutory stock option or stock appreciation right is not transferable in any manner other than (i) by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, (ii) by written designation of a beneficiary taking effect upon the death of the optionee, (iii) by delivering written notice to the Company that the optionee will be gifting to certain family members or other specific entities controlled by or for the benefit of such family members, and such other transferees as the board may approve.

Restricted Stock Units

The Board may grant restricted stock units under the 2006 Plan that represent a right to receive shares of our common stock at a future date determined in accordance with the participant s award agreement. No monetary payment is required for receipt of restricted stock units or the shares issued in settlement of the award, the consideration for which is furnished in the form of the participant s services to the Company. The Board may grant restricted stock unit awards subject to the attainment of one or more

performance goals similar to those described below in connection with performance awards, or may make the awards subject to vesting conditions similar to those applicable to restricted stock awards. Unless otherwise provided by the Board, a participant will forfeit any restricted stock units which have not vested prior to the participant s termination of service. Participants have no voting rights or rights to receive cash dividends with respect to restricted stock unit awards until shares of common stock are issued in settlement of such awards. However, the Board may grant restricted stock units that entitle their holders to receive dividend equivalents, which are rights to receive additional restricted stock units for a number of shares whose value is equal to any cash dividends we pay.

Restricted Stock Awards

The Board may grant restricted stock awards under the 2006 Plan either in the form of a restricted stock purchase right, giving a participant an immediate right to purchase common stock, or in the form of a restricted stock bonus, for which the participant furnishes consideration in the form of services to the company. The Board determines the purchase price payable under restricted stock purchase awards, which may be less than the then current fair market value of our common stock. Restricted stock awards may be subject to vesting conditions based on such service or performance criteria as the board specifies, including the attainment of one or more performance goals similar to those described below in connection with performance awards. Shares acquired pursuant to a restricted stock award may not be transferred by the participant until vested. Unless otherwise provided by the Board, a participant will forfeit any shares of restricted stock as to which the restrictions have not lapsed prior to the participant s termination of service. Participants holding restricted stock will generally have the right to vote the shares and to receive any dividends paid, except that dividends or other distributions paid in shares will be subject to the same restrictions as the original award.

Performance Awards

The Board may grant performance awards subject to such conditions and the attainment of such performance goals over such periods as the Board determines in writing and sets forth in a written agreement between the Company and the participant. To the extent compliance with Section 162(m) of the Code is desired, a committee comprised solely of outside directors under Section 162(m) shall act with respect to performance awards, and Board as used in this section shall mean this committee. These awards may be designated as performance shares or performance units. Performance shares and performance units are obligations of the company and generally having initial values, respectively, equal to the fair market value determined on the grant date of a share of common stock and a value set by the board. Performance awards will specify a predetermined amount of performance shares or performance units that may be earned by the participant to the extent that one or more predetermined performance goals are attained within a predetermined performance period. To the extent earned, performance awards may be settled in cash, shares of common stock (including shares of restricted stock) or any combination thereof.

Prior to the beginning of the applicable performance period or such later date as permitted under Section 162(m) of the Code, the Board will establish one or more performance goals applicable to the award. Performance goals will be based on the attainment of specified target levels with respect to one or more measures of business or financial performance of the company and each subsidiary corporation consolidated with the company for financial reporting purposes, or such division or business unit of the company as may be selected by the Board. The Board, in its discretion, may base performance goals on one or more of the following such measures: sales revenue, gross margin, operating margin, operating income, pre-tax profit, earnings before stock-based compensation expense, interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, net income, expenses, the market price of our common stock, earnings per share, return on stockholder equity, return on capital, return on net assets, economic value added, market share, customer service, customer satisfaction, safety, total stockholder return, free cash flow, net operating income, operating cash flow, return on investment, employee satisfaction, employee retention, balance of cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities, product development, research and development expenses, completion of an identified special project, completion of a joint venture or other corporate transaction, or other measures as determined by the board. The target levels with respect to these performance measures may be expressed on an absolute basis or relative to a standard specified by the Board. The degree of attainment of performance measures will be calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, but prior to the accrual or payment of any performance award for the same performance period, and, according to criteria established by the Board, excluding the effect (whether positive or negative) of changes in accounting standards or any extraordinary, unusual or nonrecurring item occurring after the establishment of the performance goals applicable to a performance award.

Following completion of the applicable performance period, the Board will certify in writing the extent to which the applicable performance goals have been attained and the resulting value to be paid to the participant. The Board retains the discretion to eliminate or reduce, but not increase, the amount that would otherwise be payable on the basis of the performance goals attained to a participant who is a covered employee within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code. However, no such reduction may increase the amount paid to any other participant. The Board may make positive or negative adjustments to performance award payments to participants other than covered employees to reflect the participant s individual job performance or other factors determined by the Board. In its discretion, the Board may provide for the payment to a participant awarded performance shares of dividend equivalents with respect to cash dividends paid on the company s common stock. The board may provide for performance award payments in lump sums or installments. If any payment is to be made on a deferred basis, the Board may provide for the payment of dividend equivalents or interest during the deferral period.

Unless otherwise provided by the Board, if a participant s service terminates due to the participant s death or disability prior to completion of the applicable performance period, the final award value will be determined at the end of the performance period on the basis of the performance goals attained during the entire performance period but will be prorated for the number of months of the participant s service during the performance period. If a participant s service terminates prior to completion of the applicable performance period for any other reason, the 2006 Plan provides that, unless otherwise determined by the Board, the performance award will be forfeited. No performance award may be sold or transferred other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution prior to the end of the applicable performance period.

Deferred Compensation Awards

The 2006 Plan authorizes the board to establish a deferred compensation award program. If and when implemented, participants designated by the board who are officers, directors or members of a select group of highly compensated employees may elect to receive, in lieu of compensation otherwise payable in cash or in lieu of cash or shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise or settlement of stock options, stock appreciation rights or performance share or performance unit awards, an award of deferred stock units. Each such stock unit represents a right to receive one share of our common stock at a future date determined in accordance with the participant s award agreement. Deferred stock units are fully vested upon grant and will be settled by distribution to the participant of a number of whole shares of common stock equal to the number of stock units subject to the award as soon as practicable following the earlier of the date on which the participant s service terminates or a settlement date elected by the participant at the time of his or her election to receive the deferred stock unit award. Participants are not required to pay any additional consideration in connection with the settlement of deferred stock units. A holder of deferred stock units has no voting rights or other rights as a stockholder until shares of common stock are issued to the participant in settlement of the stock units. However, participants holding deferred stock units will be entitled to receive dividend equivalents with respect to any payment of cash dividends on an equivalent number of shares of common stock. Such dividend equivalents will be credited in the form of additional whole and fractional stock units determined in accordance with a method specified by the Board in the participant s award agreement. Prior to settlement, deferred stock units may not be assigned or transferred other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution.

Other Stock-Based Awards

The Plan permits the Board to grant other awards based on the Company s stock or on dividends on the Company s stock.

Effect of Certain Corporate Events

In the event of any stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, recapitalization, combination, reclassification or similar change in the capital structure of the company, appropriate adjustments will be made in the number and class of shares subject to the 2006 Plan and to any outstanding awards, in the Section 162(m) per employee grant limit (see Federal Income Tax Information Potential Limitation on Company Deductions, below), and in the exercise price per share of any outstanding awards. Any fractional share resulting from an adjustment will be rounded down to the nearest whole number, and at no time will the exercise price of any option or stock appreciation right be decreased to an amount less than par value of the stock subject to the award.

If a change in control occurs, the surviving, continuing, successor or purchasing corporation or parent corporation thereof may either assume the Company s rights and obligations under the outstanding awards or substitute substantially equivalent awards for such corporation s stock. Awards that are not assumed, replaced or exercised prior to the change in control will terminate. The Board may grant awards that will accelerate in connection with a change in control. The acceleration of an award in the event of an acquisition or similar corporate event may be viewed as an anti-takeover provision, which may have the effect of discouraging a proposal to acquire or otherwise obtain control of the company.

Duration, Amendment and Termination

The Board may amend or terminate the 2006 Plan at any time. If not earlier terminated, the 2006 Plan will expire on June 21, 2016.

The Board may also amend the 2006 Plan at any time or from time to time. However, no amendment authorized by the board will be effective unless approved by the stockholders of the Company if the amendment would: (i) increase the number of shares reserved for options under the 2006 Plan; (ii) change the class of persons eligible to receive incentive stock options; or (iii) modify the 2006 Plan in any other way if such modification requires stockholder approval under applicable law, regulation or rule.

Specific Grants

Awards under the 2006 Plan are discretionary. Accordingly, it is not possible to determine the number of awards that may be granted under the 2006 Plan to specific individuals.

Federal Income Tax Information

Incentive Stock Options. An optionee recognizes no taxable income for regular income tax purposes as the result of the grant or exercise of an incentive stock option. Optionees who do not dispose of their shares for two years following the date the incentive stock option was granted or within one year following the exercise of the option will normally recognize a long-term capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the sale price and the purchase price of the shares. If an optionee satisfies both such holding periods upon a sale of the shares, the company will not be entitled to any deduction for federal income tax purposes. If an optionee disposes of shares either within two years after the date of grant or within one year from the date of exercise (referred to as a disqualifying disposition), the difference between the fair market value of the shares on the exercise date and the option exercise price (not to exceed the gain realized on the sale if the disposition is a transaction with respect to which a loss, if sustained, would be recognized) will be taxed as ordinary income at the time of disposition. Any gain in excess of that amount will be a capital gain. If a loss is recognized, there will be no ordinary income, and such loss will be a capital loss. A capital gain or loss will be long-term if the optionee s holding period is more than 12 months. Any ordinary income recognized by the optionee upon the disqualifying disposition of the shares generally should be deductible by the company for federal income tax purposes, except to the extent such deduction is limited by applicable provisions of the Code or the regulations thereunder. The difference between the option exercise price and the fair market value of the shares on the exercise date of an incentive stock option is an adjustment in computing the optionee s alternative minimum taxable income and may be subject to an alternative minimum tax which is paid if such tax exceeds the regular tax for the year. Special rules may apply with respect to certain subsequent sales of the shares in a disqualifying disposition, certain basis adjustments for purposes of computing the alternative minimum taxable income on a subsequent sale of the shares and certain tax credits which may arise with respect to optionees subject to the alternative minimum tax.

Nonstatutory Stock Options and Stock Appreciation Rights. Nonstatutory stock options and stock appreciation rights have no special tax status. A holder of these awards generally does not recognize taxable income as the result of the grant of such award. Upon exercise of a nonstatutory stock option or stock appreciation right, the holder normally recognizes ordinary income in an amount equal to the difference between the exercise price and the fair market value of the shares on the exercise date. If the holder is an employee, such ordinary income generally is subject to withholding of income and employment taxes. Upon the sale of stock acquired by the exercise of a nonstatutory stock option or stock appreciation right, any gain or loss, based on the difference between the sale price and the fair market value on the exercise date, will be taxed as capital gain or loss. A capital gain or loss will be long-term if the holding period of the shares is more than 12 months. The Company generally should be entitled to a deduction equal to the amount of ordinary income recognized by the optionee as a result of the exercise of a nonstatutory stock option or stock appreciation right, except to the extent such deduction is limited by applicable provisions of the Code or the regulations thereunder. No tax deduction is available to the Company with respect to the grant of a nonstatutory stock option or stock appreciation right or the sale of the stock acquired pursuant to such grant.

Restricted Stock. A participant acquiring restricted stock generally will recognize ordinary income equal to the fair market value of the shares on the determination date. The determination date is the date on which the participant acquires the shares unless the shares are subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture and are not transferable, in which case the determination date is the earlier of (i) the date on which the shares become transferable or (ii) the date on which the shares are no longer subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture. If the determination date is after the date on which the participant acquires the shares, the participant may elect, pursuant to Section 83(b) of the Code, to have the date of acquisition be the determination date by filing an election with the Internal Revenue Service no later than 30 days after the date on which the shares are acquired. If the participant is an employee, such ordinary income generally is subject to withholding of income and employment taxes. Upon the sale of shares acquired pursuant to a restricted stock award, any gain or loss, based on the difference between the sale price and the fair market value on the determination date, will be taxed as capital gain or loss. The Company generally should be entitled to a deduction equal to the amount of ordinary income recognized by the participant on the determination date, except to the extent such deduction is limited by applicable provisions of the Code.

Performance and Restricted Stock Unit Awards. A participant generally will recognize no income upon the receipt of a performance share, performance unit or restricted stock unit award. Upon the settlement of such awards, participants normally will recognize ordinary income in the year of receipt in an amount equal to the cash received and the fair market value of any substantially vested shares received. If the participant is an employee, such ordinary income generally is subject to withholding of income and employment taxes. If the participant receives shares of restricted stock, the participant generally will be taxed in the same manner as described above (see discussion under Restricted Stock). Upon the sale of any shares received, any gain or loss, based on the difference between the sale price and the fair market value on the determination date (as defined above under Restricted Stock), will be taxed as capital gain or loss. The Company generally should be entitled to a deduction equal to the amount of ordinary income recognized by the participant on the determination date, except to the extent such deduction is limited by applicable provisions of the Code.

Deferred Compensation Awards. Section 409A of the Code provides certain requirements on non-qualified deferred compensation arrangements. These include new requirements with respect to an individual s election to defer compensation and the individual s selection of the timing and form of distribution of the deferred compensation. Section 409A also generally provides that distributions must be made on or following the occurrence of certain events (e.g., the individual s separation from service, a predetermined date, or the individual s death). Section 409A imposes restrictions on an individual s ability to change his or her distribution timing or form after the compensation has been deferred. For certain individuals who are officers, Section 409A requires that such individual s distribution commence no earlier than six (6) months after such officer s separation from service.

Deferred compensation awards granted under the plan will be subject to the requirements of Section 409A. If an award is subject to and fails to satisfy the requirements of Section 409A, the recipient of that award may recognize ordinary income on the amounts deferred under the award, to the extent vested, which may be prior to when the compensation is actually or constructively received. Also, if an award that is subject to Section 409A fails to comply with Section 409A s provisions, Section 409A imposes an additional 20% federal income tax on compensation recognized as ordinary income, as well as interest on such deferred compensation.

Potential Limitation on Company Deductions. Code Section 162(m) denies a deduction to the Company for compensation paid to certain employees in a taxable year to the extent that compensation exceeds \$1 million for a covered employee. It is possible that compensation attributable to stock options, when combined with all other types of compensation received by a covered employee from the Company, may cause this limitation to be exceeded in any particular year. Certain kinds of compensation, including qualified performance-based compensation, are disregarded for purposes of the deduction limitation. In accordance with applicable regulations issued under Section 162(m), compensation attributable to stock options and stock appreciation rights will qualify as performance-based compensation, provided that: (i) the option plan contains a per-employee limitation on the number of shares for which options or stock appreciation rights may be granted during a specified period, (ii) the per-employee limitation is approved by the stockholders, (iii) the option is granted by a compensation committee comprised solely of outside directors (as defined in Section 162(m)) and (iv) the exercise price of the option or right is no less than the fair market value of the stock on the date of grant.

For the aforementioned reasons, the 2006 Plan provides for an annual per employee limitation as required under Section 162(m) and the company s compensation committee is comprised solely of outside directors. Accordingly, options or stock appreciation rights granted by the compensation committee qualify as performance-based compensation, and the other awards subject to performance goals may qualify.

Other Tax Consequences. The foregoing discussion is intended to be a general summary only of the federal income tax aspects of awards granted under the 2006 Plan; tax consequences may vary depending on the particular circumstances at hand. In addition, administrative and judicial interpretations of the application of the federal income tax laws are subject to change. Furthermore, no information is given with respect to state or local taxes that may be applicable. Participants in the 2006 Plan who are residents of or are employed in a country other than the United States may be subject to taxation in accordance with the tax laws of that particular country in addition to or in lieu of United States federal income taxes.

OUR BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE GRILL CONCEPTS, INC. 2006 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN.

PROPOSAL 3

AMENDMENT OF CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as currently in effect (the Certificate), provides that we are authorized to issue two classes of stock: 12,000,