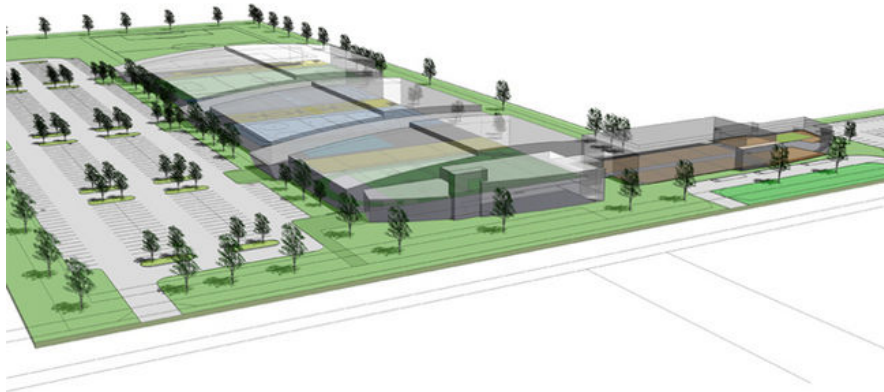


Rec centre designs approved

BY RENATO GANDIA ,CALGARY SUN

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QUARRY PARK EDUCATION AND RECREATION COMPLEX SITE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL
NOT TO SCALE
CARDEL  Gibbs Gage
ARCHITECTS

Proposed Quarry Park Education and Recreation Complex. (Photo source supportqprec.com)

Bureaucrats are going ahead with detailed designs of four proposed city rec centres following council approving the next stage of the multi-million dollar projects.

In a 13-2 vote council approved the preliminary designs for proposed facilities in Great Plains, Quarry Park, Seton and Rocky Ridge.

Council also approved carrying an additional debt load of up to \$250 million to pay for the projects, initially estimated to cost \$480 million.

Ald. Shane Keating said the projects need to go forward now.

“We can’t have another generation of children in these areas that don’t have facilities,” he said.

For efficiency purposes and to advance the schedule, the design services will be bundled.

Quarry Park and Rocky Ridge will be bundled together under one contract.

Seton and Great Plains will be lumped together under a separate contract to proceed through a request for proposal process.

Ald. Andre Chabot didn’t support advancing the project because he has several questions specifically on the preliminary design of the proposed facility in Great Plains, which he characterized to be “grandiose.”

“I’d like a better understanding on how it is that they came up with this design,” he said.

“We’re talking about a building that’s going into an industrial area, and so what interest would there be to holding huge tournaments.”

Chabot said he doesn’t understand why the city would build a facility intending to attract more tournaments to come to Calgary when there are such venues already in the market.

“If you watch your pennies the dollars will take care of themselves,” he said.

“We’re not talking of pennies here, we’re talking tens of millions of dollars.”

Ald. John Mar said council knows there’s a need in those four areas of the city.

“We know that this the right thing for us to do.”

“Ald. Chabot may suggest that it’s too much, in the paper it might appear grandiose, but I think Calgarians want us to make investments that are going to last,” he said.

Mar said Calgarians want council to make investments in projects they can be proud of and that’s the direction the city is taking.

Following the approval of the detailed design, the city will open the projects for public tender.

Bureaucrats will come back in October with a report on the libraries planned for three of the rec centres.
