

New YMCA design looks 'fine'
The Wood River Journal
May 11, 2005

By Susan Bailey

The arches clearly weren't golden.

Wood River Community YMCA drawings earned praise from Ketchum planners Monday night for the first time. Configured minus a set of three arches said to "resemble a train station," the new plans by Sink Combs Dethlefs of Denver finally hopped the right track.

"You've got the aesthetics solved," said Ketchum Planning and Zoning Commissioner Jack Rutherford, who has been a harsh critic of the "urban" look in previous YMCA plans.

Planners on Monday, May 9, were unable to spend enough time to recommend the YMCA design to City Council. Design review returns to the May 23 agenda, with a recommendation to the governing body of City Council possible at that time.

Ketchum Planning and Zoning Commission did, however, recommend the YMCA's Planned Unit Development to the Council.

Members worked through the findings of fact on the PUD until 9:45 p.m. with a major stalemate on underground parking left to Council for resolution.

With only four of five planners sitting for the meeting, voting split 2 to 2 on whether underground parking should be demanded for the YMCA facility.

Chairman Harold Johnson and Commissioner Anne Corrock voted for underground parking but were held in check by Jack Rutherford and Ron Parsons.

"I really do see that \$2.5 million bucks for 59 spaces is too much," said Rutherford.

Dick Fosbury of Galena Engineers, said groundwater at the Park and Ride Lot springs forth at eight feet below the surface, limiting the possibilities of underground parking.

In addition, Andy Barnard, architect for Sinks Combs Dethlefs, said engineering of support structures combined with weight of an ice rink and a swimming pool increase costs for creating underground parking beneath the 84,155-square-foot building.

During deliberations on the PUD, P&Z agreed to recommend City Council add "open space" to the north end of the Park and Ride Lot. Planners and the YMCA were working with a conceptual master plan for the entire city lot at Saddle Road and Warm Springs Road.

No date has been set for City Council review of the YMCA PUD application. Council has the final word.

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