

Interpretive centre officially a go ; Location and design of new 14,000 sq. ft. interpretive centre in Fort Saskatchewan chosen, to be built in Legacy Park

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FULL TEXT

The city will officially get its new interpretive centre.

On Tuesday, March 25, Fort Saskatchewan city council approved the location and design of a new interpretive centre, to replace the currently-utilized Warden's House from 1937, which will be brought to council for historic designation at a later date.

According to Richard Gagnon, director of Cultural Services, the design chosen received more than 64 per cent approval from around 70 residents who attended public consultation for the project.

"It's got a community feel to it," Gagnon said of the building, which will be built in Legacy Park.

The 14,000-sq.-ft. construction will begin this year, with a parking lot -- considered Phase 2 -- to be built in 2016. Of the 14,000 sq. ft., 1,500 sq. ft. is being left unused and vacant for future needs.

"I think this is a building that's really going to bring that historical area together," Coun. Arjun Randhawa said prior to council approving the project.

Initial cost estimates for the interpretive centre reached the \$6.2-million mark.

However, with the location and design now secured, another \$1.1 million was added to the bill.

"I think it creates a facility that allows us to showcase a little bit more than what we are capable of showcasing right now," Coun. Ed Sperling said.

Coun. Stew Hennig agreed, noting: "I believe this is our Field of Dreams' -- if you build it, they will come."

Council voted unanimously to approve the project.

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DETAILS

Subject:	Councils; Cost estimates
Location:	Saskatchewan Canada
Identifier / keyword:	council interpretive march officially saskatchewan
Publication title:	Fort Saskatchewan Record; Fort Saskatchewan
First page:	28
Publication year:	2014
Publication date:	Apr 3, 2014
Section:	News
Publisher:	Postmedia Network Inc.
Place of publication:	Fort Saskatchewan
Country of publication:	Canada, Fort Saskatchewan
Publication subject:	General Interest Periodicals--Canada
Source type:	Newspaper
Language of publication:	English
Document type:	News
ProQuest document ID:	2178632713
Document URL:	https://login.ezproxy.library.ualberta.ca/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/interpretive-centre-officially-go-location-design/docview/2178632713/se-2?accountid=14474
Copyright:	Copyright Postmedia Network Inc. Apr 3, 2014
Last updated:	2019-02-12
Database:	Canadian Newsstream

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