

Subject: Pool and gym facility

My point is brief. Being a resident in the Ville Marie borough, as well as being personally involved in a career in the health and fitness domain, I found that the comments made by certain people as regards the sports facility quite erroneous and misleading. In fact I have been following the redevelopment of the old Marianopolis college site and found it to be quite interesting and unfortunately full of misinformation which seems to be disseminated by the opponents of the project. It seems that every time that there is a good project in Montreal, activists tend to put a negative spin on it and always try to delay things and try to discredit what in my eyes is a beautiful project.

That being said, given that my field of expertise is in the sector of physical fitness and health as this is what I know and I felt that I could contribute to the progress of this project by giving my understanding of the actual situation with the gym facility. At the public sessions, which I attended, some people mentioned that they had access to the gym and their kids went to school and had access to the gym, where were their kids going to go to gym from now on, were they going to go to the gym after it was demolished etc..... Well if I understand the facts correctly that sports or gym facility is a private facility which belongs to the developer and they are currently leasing it out to the two PRIVATE schools which are THE STUDY and ST GEORGE'S which use it for their own students. As well, these schools actually take the space and other than for their own use, actually charge a fee or rental fee for the use of the space by people that are not students of The Study or St George's. They are actually doing this in order to minimize their rental cost so it is a revenue source for them. Can someone explain to me where the public is getting the notion that it is a public facility? It clearly is not and apart from that, it is an architectural nightmare and I believe was cited to be demolished as it has absolutely no architectural value and actually detract from the site. This should be made very clear to the public as there does not seem to be that comprehension and this should be made clear to the public. The perception that it is a public facility is entirely false!

Instead of creating false illusions perhaps the opponents to the project, which believe that there is a need for a gym facility in the area, should lobby the City of Montreal to build one in the area assuming that the demand is sufficient. By the way there are 2 gym clubs in the areas which is the Atwater Club at the corner of Atwater and Chemin Piquet and another one on the corner of Atwater and De Maisonneuve. The opponents should actually understand that with the new windfall of taxes that the project will generate, a portion of it could actually go to subsidize a low cost housing and/or a new gym facility. This is called progressive thinking! Status quo is not the answer and lets start finding solutions instead of creating problems.

From what I have seen it will be a very beautiful and very green project in a site that needs to be redeveloped and brought back to life!

Regards

Austin Boyce