

Mayoral Candidate Review - Top Contenders' Stances on Recreation

A two-step approach was taken to determine each candidate's stance and "recreation friendliness", degree that recreation is a priority and our feeling on the likelihood they can/will implement a recreation centre quickly. Firstly web sites for each candidate were reviewed. Secondly, members of the CNRCS contacted each candidate to assess their priorities and obtain their views about recreation and a NW recreation centre. Candidates were then scored across five criteria to determine support levels and the likelihood they will/can make a recreation centre happen upon taking office. Four of the criteria were objective with the fifth criteria (passion toward recreation) a subjective assessment based on all the input gathered during the review.

Our Conclusion: All candidates expressed support to construct the NW recreation center and we don't see future resistance to support the project. However, **Craig Burrows & Naheed Nenshi** have put in the most effort to date to work with the CNRCS and other sports groups to develop recreation policies. Thus, we feel they are most likely to prioritize the quick completion of a recreation centre & develop increased focus on recreation initiatives for Calgary.

Candidate	Recreation a Stated Priority on Site	Developed a recreation policy	Developed Financing Solutions	Involved CNRCS in Creating a Recreation Policy	Passion Conveyed Toward Recreation
Craig Burrows	√	√	√	√	√
Naheed Nenshi	√	√		√	√
Joe Connelly	√				√
Jon Lord	√		√		
Bob Hawkesworth					√
Wayne Stewart			√		
Barb Higgins	√				
Ric McIver	√				

Review Details About Each Candidate

Mayoral Candidate	Views On NW Centre & Recreation	Our Take
Barb Higgins	States Sports and Culture is a priority but no specifics on regional Centres. Her focus is to work with sporting associations, in particular soccer and hockey. Was aware of capital funds for arts and culture but did not reference or promise to allocate funds for the recreation centre.	Doesn't seem to understand issues and funding situation related to the centres. Focus on competitive sports, not overall recreation. No innovative ideas communicated in platform document. She doesn't state specifics for the NW recreation centre, sports or how she will drive the project.
Bob Hawkesworth	Supports many social issues. Key quote: "I believe it is a matter of priorities. In fact in my discussions with the police chief he will tell you that crime can be reduced if we kept our kids more active especially in the peak hours after school. So yes. Facilities are very high on my list." His web site has no specific mentions of support or getting the recreation center built.	His philosophy is aligned with making recreation a priority. He doesn't state specifics for the NW recreation centre, sports or how he will drive the project.
Craig Burrows	Recreation and sports is a priority. Will ensure \$70M reserved from MSI funding will be allocated and released for the centers quickly and has promoted a \$300M community investment fund by selling part of Enmax and using some of those proceeds to fund recreation. \$200 million will be used to fund 6 new sheets of ice, 2 new indoor soccer facilities and 6 new artificial, outdoor soccer pitches. Has a balanced view on sports and recreation.	Has the most comprehensive policy with respect to sports and recreation including innovative ideas to fund new facilities. Had multiple discussions with CNRCS and included our input for his policies.

Mayoral Candidate	Views On NW Centre & Recreation	Our Take
Joe Connelly	Three core platform issues. #1 is "Building a Great City for Everyone – Especially for Our Children". First element of this platform pillar is recreation. Key quote: "My first priority is a great city for everyone especially our children. I believe we are woefully behind in our recreation facilities and fully support more. We need to keep our children busy and healthy; and provide facilities for adults and families. We have green space but not enough sport facilities. I support Glenmore and the NW Recreation Centre; as a matter of priorities. We need to keep kids busy."	Very focused platform of which a core focus includes recreation. We'd like to see more specifics on how he plans to improve recreation service delivery in Calgary.
Jon Lord	Until recently, his public platform had little on recreation. Recently distributed press release stating a focus on creating many small "rink in a box" structures versus "Taj Majal" type regional facilities. He proposes to build at least 20 new single or twin arena/field steel-span structures in communities throughout the City, plus 3 large Regional multi-sports larger facilities, all could be complete within 3 years using his Sport4Calgary plan although we cannot locate. Included some interesting P3 financing ideas for "rink in a box" structures.	He's made a knee jerk reaction to address recreation in his platform which is positive but we need more clarity: Will he focus time and \$\$\$ on short term structures or larger regional facilities? It appears short term structures for soccer and hockey families are a priority which is positive but it doesn't address the need for facilities for other types of users. His timelines for new facilities are unrealistic even though we'd like to see it all in three years. He references a Sport4Calgary plan in his vision we cannot locate the plan.

Mayoral Candidate	Views On NW Centre & Recreation	Our Take
Naheed Nenshi	Spoke at length with the CNRCS about recreation. His "Better Ideas" campaign includes a comprehensive policy on recreation which includes: increasing the supply of recreation facilities (including new regional recreation centers), construction of athletic parks, increasing access to existing facilities through a variety of tactics and finding ways to motivate increased funding of recreation by the private sector. "Fixing City Hall" is a major pillar of his election platform and he identified getting processes streamlined as a key component to completing regional facilities. The CNRCS has received a copy of the final version of the policy. This is be made available on his campaign web site on October 13 th .	Consulted CNRCS to form his recreation policy. Second to Craig Burrows – has the most comprehensive view for recreation in the City with some good ideas on how to maximize the use of existing facilities. Has specifically stated a priority is to remove the hurdles impeding progress with the regional recreation centers in Calgary (including the NW).
Ric McIver	Vibrant, safe, communities is one of four core platform pillars. This includes finding new ways to introduce recreational amenities. He is fully aware of issues as he fought to get SE recreation centre located in his ward earlier this year. During a conversation said he made it clear that he supports the recreation center project.	He's supported this project to date in Council and verbally committed to continuing to support. Some questions marks: Potential future conflict: if push comes to shove with re-prioritizing release of funding – will he support a SE centre to receive funding before a NW centre?
Wayne Stewart	While he's stated that active living is a priority that he will promote, his stated infrastructure priorities do not include recreation centers. Has stated that he's supportive of a recreation center if the community is which suggests he is unaware of lobby efforts in NW of community groups. He is a major advocate of P3 financing which may be one method to finance a portion of the facility – he would include the recreation center as part of a P3 financing review of all infrastructure projects. No other candidates discussed this funding option. This is important in that many are reluctant to utilize P3 financing.	In general supports recreation but a disconnect exists between what his site states and his response to our questions. His openness to P3 financing is a plus as no other candidates have openly stated a willingness to explore this funding model.