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## Mixed-use project on tap for north Avondale

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After 18 years of discussion, the Goodyear City Council was relatively quiet Tuesday night when renderings of the City Center's northwest quadrant were revealed.

Vice Mayor Rob Antoniak summed up the less talk, more action environment when he said, "Build it tomorrow. I've got nothing to knock it."

Joe Spada of architecture firm HDR presented the preliminary plan to the City Council during a work study session.

The City Center will be built on 40 acres at Yuma Road and Estrella Parkway. It also encompasses 100 acres north of Desert Edge High School. The two parcels will connect, bringing the total acreage to 140, Spada said.

The 40 acres will house a performing arts center, multi-generational facility, library, the University of the Incarnate Word, Franklin Pierce University, city administration building and council chambers.

The two universities will be located next to one another but divided by a street. Both will have frontage on Estrella Parkway.

The universities will be on the western front of the 100 acres and connect to a public park by a pedestrian-friendly mall. The space between the colleges and park has been reserved for university expansion.

Councilman Frank Cavalier said the park's distance from the buildings on the 40 acres would cause a disconnect to the City Center.

He said the university students, high school students and general public need to converge at all hours of the day to keep the City Center a viable, sustainable area.

"Without people, we don't have sustainability," he said.

He suggested the park become more integrated with the universities to create a campus-like atmosphere.

Spada said the universities expressed specific interest in having frontage on Estrella Parkway and the ability to create their own presence within the master plan.

Cyndi Porter, dean of the virtual university and liaison for the Goodyear campus of the University of the Incarnate Word, said she was pleased with the park's placement and the overall design for the project.

"I thought it was very attractive," she said. "I like the placement of the park because you have to walk through the City Center to get there."

With the exception of issues related to the park, the council expressed pleasure in the preliminary design offered by HDR.