

Dear Members of the SECA Board:

Thank you for inviting me to meet with you regarding the email that was circulated to members of your board by an unnamed individual regarding the above application. The email alleged that the Planning Department and myself in particular, had “all but invited” developers to apply for the rezoning of the Shawnee Slopes Golf Course to further Plan It Calgary objectives. The “source” also stated that it was “98% certainty” that the zoning would happen.

As I indicated at the Board meeting, I have never encouraged or invited anyone to apply for the rezoning of this golf course, including Geo Energy. The only meeting I have ever had with Geo Energy was the one I attended with Mr. Snell and Ms. Dingwall in Alderman Colley-Urquhart’s office. We were certainly aware through Alderman Colley- Urquhart’s office, of interest regarding the sale and redevelopment of this golf course; however, any advice provided by myself or my staff was confined to the requirements of the planning process. This site has not been promoted as an opportunity to further the objectives of the new Municipal Development Plan (Plan It Calgary), nor can it be assumed that the application will automatically be supported because it represents “intensification”. For example, during our meeting, I cited two recent examples (Lake Fraser Drive near the Canyon Meadows LRT station and a project near Marlborough Mall) of developments proposed next to LRT stations that were not supported by Administration as the scale and intensity of development was determined to be incompatible with the adjacent residential areas.

The City is required to process applications which it receives in a comprehensive, transparent and professional manner. You have my commitment that this approach will be followed with this application and that no outcome is pre-supposed. This is a challenging application for The City and your community. We are conscious of the many hours of volunteer time that are being spent on this issue. Please be assured that we are here to assist you in any way we can with the planning process or in understanding any of the technical reviews that will be completed.

As you know, an Open House will be taking place on June 14 so we can directly hear the comments and concerns of area residents regarding this application. I note that we have received SECA’s very thorough response to the circulation of the application and we will give it careful consideration. Additionally, all opportunities for public input into this process have been outlined online at: www.calgary.ca/shawneeslopes.

I trust that the above response and our face to face meeting has adequately addressed the allegations in the email sent to you. If the unnamed author of the email would like to meet with me to discuss this matter further, I would certainly be prepared to do so.

Yours truly,

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