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Residents vow to continue fight against sale of Shaw-Nee golf course



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CALGARY - Residents opposed to the sale of a golf course in their neighbourhood are vowing to keep up the fight, even though their alderman withdrew a bid to have the city purchase the links.

Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart was to ask her council colleagues Monday to look at buying the Shaw-Nee golf course, but pulled her motion off the table.

She said when she first brought the idea forward "there was no confirmation there was a formal offer on the table for this land."

A letter council received from Geo-Energy, which has put an unconditional offer on the land, stated the company intends to complete the sale and come before council with plans for a mixed-use development.

"So then it made it very difficult for me to have the city interfere in a business transaction," Colley-Urquhart said. "I will keep it ready because many of these people have come before to buy the golf course, and the minute I hear that this deal has fallen through, I will place that motion again."

Chris Davis, lawyer for Geo-Energy, said the deal will close next summer.

"We advised in the letter our client is interested in the long-term redevelopment of the property," he said. "We're committed to working through the development process and engaging the general community."

But Vic Bohonos, spokesman for the Shawnee-Evergreen community association on the golf course issue, said they want the golf course to remain a golf course.

"We fully intend to fight this as vigorously as anyone possibly could," he said.

Geo-Energy plans to present its idea for the land to the community before the end of January.

Colley-Urquhart said she will be "awaiting with great anticipation to see what they're going to present."

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