

Public Hearing on Planning Matters

October 3, 2023

Calgary City Council

800 Macleod Trail Se

Calgary, Alberta, T2G2M3

Dear Calgary City Council,

Hello, my name is Shane Beattie, I am a student at the University of Calgary and I wish to speak at the Public Hearing on Planning Matters on October 3, 2023 in regards to LOC2023-0017 a land use redesignation at the land located at 969 Walden Drive SE (Plan 1912127, Block 12, Lot 52) from Special Purpose – City and Regional Infrastructure (S-CRI) District to Special Purpose – Community Service (S-CS) District. A request enabling the development of a Library and permanent fire hall in Walden, Calgary.

The lands current designation only allows for infrastructure and utility facilities including transportation operated by the government, and the change would allow the development of small education and community facilities. I will be speaking in favour of the land use redesignation as I believe that this change not only allows for the development of needed facilities in the community but necessary facilities in the community.

The land use redesignation is being enacted to set the plan in motion to develop two community services, a permanent fire hall and a public library. Introducing a public library to the community of Walden will create accessible knowledge to a wide range of community members that may be reaching the limit of usage on the next closes public library, being that in the Cardel building in Shawnessy. The current focus of the community development is to create walkable neighborhoods that have all the necessary services of living within a distance reachable by foot. Lately this community and surrounding communities have been getting developed with that mindset bringing all sorts of food, leisure, healthcare, and many more services to the area and one thing that will make this area more welcoming to the growing younger generation trying to start families than the introduction of a public library. A library much closer to home not only promotes civility but encourages the curiosity, and growth of the abundant younger generation in the area.

Second, and most importantly in my opinion, would be the development of a permanent fire hall in the community of Walden. While I am sure that the temporary house is well equipped to handle most situations, I personally have a hard time believing that it is capable of resolving all problems from the sights of it as I drive by, be that as it may, the small underdeveloped temporary fire hall somewhat gives off the impression that it wasn't that important to build the



appropriate protection facilities this far south. I'd hope that most people would agree with me when I say that I think the safety and protection of the members of our community is and should remain one of our highest priorities as a city. Because of that, the development of a permanent and appropriately supplied fire hall in the southern community is a necessity. As we continue to expand southwards adding community after community to combat the demand for housing, it only increases the unfortunate probability that a catastrophe occurs requiring the response from the fire hall. Furthermore, the move southward increases amount of time that it would take for neighboring units to respond. If I am correct the other closest respondents would be the Midnapore fire hall and the Evergreen fire hall, given the temporary house only allots for one engine, the probability of one of these neighboring fire halls needing to join on a call is increased. Moreover, in the unfortunate event that the single engine from the temporary hall is engaged in a call and there is another emergency down south, this will lead to a very long response time from those neighboring facilities. The "engage" page for this development opened my eyes further to some facts about fire response times, specifically the speed and likelihood that a fire can spread causing more and more destruction to homes and families. Furthermore, details focusing on the impact of health and safety for people given the time of response and how quickly a fire can be controlled. I find it astonishing that as we continue to greenlight greenfield developments in the south and that we have only put in the current, underequipped temporary fire hall in Walden with the responsibility of looking after more and more neighborhoods as we speak. For the safety, security, and the peace of mind of all the community members, I believe that it is imperative that we build a permanent fire hall in Walden.

Overall, I am in favour for the land use redesignation located at 969 Walden Drive SE (Plan 1912127, Block 12, Lot 52) from Special Purpose – City and Regional Infrastructure (S-CRI) District to Special Purpose – Community Service (S-CS) District. I believe this Change allows for the development to two very good facilities that will be much appreciated by the community members. A library to promote the growth and education of all aged community members, and a new permanent appropriately equipped fire hall to support the growing southern Calgary expansion.

Thank you, council, for your time, and I hope that you feel the same about this matter and choose to approve this land use redesignation.

Sincerely,

Shane Beattie