

Northern Hills (Feb/Mar/Apr 2005)

Ward 3 Update

Introduction

As the newly-elected Ward 3 Alderman, I am pleased to bring you this first newsletter message. My family and I have lived in Martindale for over 14 years. As former president of this community association for four years, I have been relentless in efforts to initiate and persist with projects benefiting citizens in this ward.

Continuing in my passionate pledge of community service, I became involved with the Federation of Calgary Communities for three years, most recently as President. This allowed me to understand the many needs of communities throughout Calgary, which provided me with the broad based knowledge and experience to support my decisions made on City Council.

While in office, I will undertake to ensure that transit and transportation needs are addressed in all sections of this ward. It is vital that extension of the LRT and additional transit services are kept in the forefront. I supported a motion at the November 8th Council meeting to purchase 33 LRTs with Provincial dollars, that the City of Calgary will be receiving.

Stoney Industrial Area Structure Plan

As you may be aware, Council referred the Stoney Industrial ASP back to City Administration for further review. The outcome of the review is expected to come before the Calgary Planning Commission by the end of April 2005. Shortly after, the report will be presented to Council again.

I have met with your community association and the City Administration, and therefore, I am well versed with the community's concerns. I will be meeting with the landowners to hear their concerns as well. I hope to find a middle ground on this issue.

Recent developments

- Symons Valley Community Plan - will be coming before City Council on February 7, 2005 for approval.
- Cardel Place - an application to add a physiotherapy clinic will also be before City Council on February 7th.

– Neighbourhood shopping centre (Harvest Hills Blvd & Panatella Blvd) – approved for retail, convenience store, liquor store and gas bar. No word on when construction will begin.

Incompatible land uses potential for problems

Recently, an issue was brought to my attention. A liquor store was approved next door to a child care facility in a shopping centre. The owner of the child care facility was devastated and contacted me, as her business would be jeopardized by having a liquor store so close by.

The current Land Use Bylaw prohibits a liquor store to be located closer than 300 metres to another liquor store. The same Bylaw also prohibits a liquor store from being any closer than 150 metres to a school, and yet, there is no restriction of distance for child care facilities.

I presented a motion to Council on December 6, 2004 to have the Land Use Bylaw changed so that child care facilities would be added to the same 150-metre setback as schools. My motion resulted in a tie vote and hence, was not passed. I, however, intend to raise this matter again in Council in the future.

Finally, I want to thank all the committed community members for their involvement and support. Over the next term, I am committed to ensuring constituents needs are heard and addressed.

Helene Larocque
Alderman, Ward 3