



Foothills Mennonite Church
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Dear Calgary Planning Commission

In 1965 a sod turning ceremony was held at 2115 Urbana Road by a small group of people who desired to build a church in a residential community. The people of Foothills Mennonite Church (FMC) did not want to build a large campus in an industrial area, rather they wanted to be part of a neighbourhood so that they could be both a resource and a blessing for it. Today, roughly 500 people consider our church to be a place where they belong.

The Board of Trustees of FMC has a limited understanding of proposed development for the Stadium Shopping Centre (SSC), but we believe we know enough to see its incongruence with the University Heights neighbourhood. While there is little doubt that the SSC is in need of redevelopment, it appears to us that the redevelopment that is being proposed is geared more for the facilities south of 16th Ave. than for the residents of University Heights where the SSC is located. The proposal of the pedestrian bridge to cross 16th Ave. confirms this for us.

We strongly urge the Calgary Planning Commission to rethink what is being proposed. Among the many concerns we have, we feel that, even with enhanced transit service, traffic flow will be a major concern as it already is now at certain times of the day. We do not believe that roundabouts or signalized intersections will be able to manage traffic flow effectively.

What is more, we feel that the proposed development will change the nature of this neighbourhood. Residents of this community have seen the SSC as a meeting place for this neighbourhood. 5.5.1 3A of the ARP states that there is an aim to "create a strong sense that the public is welcome to the inner areas of the Plan". The way this is worded tells us that the proposed development will serve other/new interests, but the public should still feel welcome.

Would the Calgary Planning Commission please take into consideration the needs and desires of the University Heights residents and place those ahead of the plans for development? Moderate development is favoured by a large majority of the residents. Engaging in a collaborative process with the University Heights residents would benefit the City, the developer and all those who call University Heights home.

Respectfully,
Gerald Enns, Board Chair

Rev. Doug Klassen, Pastor