



#2017-32

Nova Dubovik <ndubovik@utah.gov>

GRAMA Denial appeal

1 message

REC'D APR 04 2017
no

george chapman
To: ndubovik@utah.gov

Tue, Apr 4, 2017 at 5:23 PM

Forms and documents attached.
Please let me know if this information is not sufficient.

George Chapman

The below is text from the form attached:

I am requesting that Salt Lake City release the minutes and recordings of the closed door meetings that discussed the locations of the four original homeless sites. The information appears to be kept secret for political reasons. News media stories have already quoted City Council members on the issues discussed and how they decided. But without seeing the record, there is no way to tell if the information is correct. The decision of the High Ave site is essentially a done deal and closed this month. The Deseret Industries site is going to be a further public process that will depend on the private decisions of the LDS Church (it may take 3 years to complete).

Because the information in the closed door meetings is already being publicized by the City Council members and the land/legal contracts have already been signed, it is neither appropriate nor legal to keep the meetings' records secret. Again, it appears to be politically motivated. That is not an appropriate use of closed door meetings.

The City, in its denial of my appeal for the records, said that attorney-client privilege is involved which is an unsupported statement. Redacting any attorney-client privileged communications would seem unintelligible reasoning. If that were allowed, anytime politicians wanted to hide discussions, they could say attorney-client privilege. Any segregation of non-protected information would be very detailed, based on the information discussed by the Councilmembers in the press. Any information available in this most contentious issue in Utah in the last few years would be valuable and in the public interest. The potential for acquiring "one or more of the parcels discussed for other purposes, and its negotiating position should not be compromised by making the recordings public" seems indefensible due to the fact that the contracts were already signed (with the City losing \$10,000 for backing out). The contracts are already public so negotiating is over with!

The Salt Lake Tribune published a story on December 19, 2016 that listed much of the discussion in the closed meetings (Homeless shelter next to City Hall" A look at the rejected shelter sites Matthew Piper). If there really was a chance that the last two rejected sites were still viable and being considered, the list of 11 finalists would not have been released.

Again, this discussion, would have valuable public interest and value in ensuring that our public elected officials are held to the highest expected standards. Releasing portions of the closed door discussions to benefit political purposes would seem to negate all reasonable and legal purposes of closed door meetings.

Please consider the public interest and order the release of all of the recordings and information of the closed door meetings regarding the homeless site discussions in the Salt Lake City Council, including RDA discussions. Note that the RDA budget was used to provide funding of \$11.7 million to buy the homeless sites so it is questionable that there were no closed door discussions in the RDA (the SLC Council and Mayor) about the site locations.

The above statements constitute the "Statement of facts, reasons, and legal authority in support of this appeal"