



FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BUILDING CONSERVANCY

November 30, 2016

Mayor Greg Stanton
and Members of the City Council, City of Phoenix

Dear Mayor Stanton and Council Members:

We have been informed that a request to the City Council will be made for the withdrawal of the 2012 pending application for a City of Phoenix historic preservation overlay and Landmark designation for the David and Gladys Wright House. We understand that the 2012 application is listed on the Council agenda for consideration on December 7, having been delayed several times since 2012 at the owner's request, and that the withdrawal request will be considered at that meeting.

The Council may recall that the application providing protection to the house was initially requested by the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy in June 2012 and the Conservancy worked with a coalition of organizations and citizens in Phoenix throughout 2012 to insure that the house would be preserved. The Conservancy was enormously appreciative of the philanthropic action of Zach Rawling and the Rawling family to save the house in December 2012, and continues to appreciate all efforts taken since that time to plan for and insure the house's survival and appropriate use.

The Conservancy's consistent objective has been to insure that the house is protected. Therefore we continue to urge the Council to take action to provide this Landmark designation as soon as possible. If it is not possible to approve the 2012 application at this time, we urge that the 2012 application continue as pending until such time that an appropriate replacement application is presented for action to the City Council.

We are aware that the owner initiated an application for an enlarged site in 2015 and that application was recommended by the Historic Preservation Commission, however we also recognize that several steps remain to be taken before this 2015 application will reach the City Council for consideration and the timeframe for that process is undetermined at this point. It may well be that ultimately the 2015 application will be the most beneficial for the house, however given a lack of certainty in the outcome of that 2015 process, we feel strongly that the best course of action would be to conserve the progress made to date, ensuring that either the original 2012 or the 2015 application will, at some point, receive Council action. Keeping the 2012 application pending for the time being allows certainty that the landmarking decision will be made by the Council at a future time and hopefully soon.

We also applaud the Phoenix community for recognizing and continuing to work for a very positive outcome for this unique and internationally important Wright building. If we can assist in the pursuit of that goal we would be happy to do so.

Sincerely,


Edith Payne

President


Larry Woodin

Executive Committee