

**Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association
4340 East Indian School Road
Suite 21, Box 293
Phoenix, AZ 85018**

February 19, 2015

**Mayor Greg Stanton
Vice Mayor Jim Waring
Councilwoman Thelda Williams
Councilman Bill Gates
Councilwoman Laura Pastor
Councilman Daniel Valenzuela
Councilman Sal DiCiccio
Councilman Michael Nowakowski
Councilwoman Kate Gallego
Mr. Jay Swart, Chairman of Camelback East Village Planning Commission**

Re: David & Gladys Wright House

Mayor, Councilmen and Councilwomen and Chairman,

Over two years ago the possible destruction of the David & Gladys Wright House alarmed the neighborhood, the Historical Preservation community and those who are closely attuned to the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright and sought a course of action that resulted in the sale of the house to the current owner. The concern also resulted in the crafting of a text amendment that would have provided special rights to the owner of the R-35 zoned property; these included the granting of the right to allow visitors and to charge for those visits along with the ability to serve beverages and food as well as maintain a gift shop, none of which is allowed under the R-35 zoning.

This text amendment was supported by the various members of the community with the understanding that the uses of the property would be confined to those uses outlined as well as a few that were to be negotiated such as the hours of operation.

The Association has been consistent in its concern that no commercial use would be permitted in keeping with its bylaws which limit the Arcadia neighborhood to residential uses.

Nothing has been filed with the city and the no concrete proposals have been offered although there have been numerous newspaper reports of uses that were greater than

originally understood by the community. The Association and various neighbors are in opposition to the proposed use of the grounds for weddings and events such as concerts although the original intended use for visits by architectural students and visitors may be acceptable if reasonably limited.

The original parcel purchased along with the one to the south and the one to north are owned by David Wright LLC. As it stands at this moment, the owner has no rights other than those that would be implied by the ownership of an R-35 lot. The neighborhood is concerned that various staged events are occurring which are understood to not be in conformity with current zoning and uses; these events have given rise to concerns over what might be the uses proposed when the requests are filed.

The Association and the neighbors are concerned that the absence of opposition to the extended proposed uses might be interpreted as support. There are many who do support the efforts to preserve the house although it might be noted that there are some that feel the house should in the least be moved to another location.

In simple negotiation terms, the text amendment was intended to be the anchor which would define the uses. It was not intended to be the starting point for additional requests.

Thus, the Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association after careful and contentious discussions hereby withdraws any perceived support.

That being said, the owner has "saved" the property. For that he is to be commended. He now has ownership of an R-35 lot which has a historic home along with two other lots and an offer for a third. He certainly is entitled to maintain the home as he wishes. He will not be entitled to having events or other activities for which payment is received by him or others that "host" the event. He may not, in any form, offer any activity that can be construed as commercial.

While we are open to further discussion, it must be known that any discussions will start, not at the level of activities permitted under the text amendment but rather from the position of ownership of a house which has some historical significance but with no other rights. Any rights requested by the owner or activities sought must be considered from the perspective of the neighbors and not from the perspective of the house and any possible significance it might have.

We regret this action is necessary but no action should be taken without regard to how the neighborhood will be impacted immediately and how it could be impacted in the future. We recognize that there will be opportunities to be heard about points of opposition through the entire approval process which can take months but it has been so contentious that we felt these feelings needed to be expressed.

We continue to be open for discussion with the applicant regarding details when those requests are made.

Sincerely,

Richard Rea

President