Project Narrative: Taliesin West HP Overlay Zoning

Description of Request: This case was initiated by the City's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on November 10, 2005 following a public hearing. No development or change in use is proposed by the City with this City-initiated case. The owner, the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation (Foundation), supports the proposed HP boundary in conformance with the September 2003 Development Agreement with the City Council.

The City and the Foundation signed a Development and Preservation Agreement, No. 2003-158-COS, that was approved by City Council on September 23, 2003. Section 13. of that agreement states that "Foundation and City shall commence the process of applying for a Historic Preservation ("HP") designation for that portion of the Taliesin Site mutually determined to be eligible and appropriate for such HP designation."

The HPC formed a nine-member committee in the summer of 2005 to prepare a boundary recommendation for designating Taliesin West HP and adding the property to the Scottsdale Historic Register. A mutually agreed upon HP boundary map has now been determined by the HPC and Foundation and is the subject of this application.

The buildings at Taliesin West were constructed after Mr. Wright purchased land at the base of the McDowell Mountains in 1937 for his winter residence, architectural office and school of architecture. Taliesin West was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and became a National Historic Landmark, a higher classification of historic significant, in 1982. It is highly appropriate for Scottsdale to recognize the historic buildings at Taliesin West as historically significant, structures that were designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright and his apprentices. Over 100,000 people visit Taliesin West each year for tours. This collection of buildings is an architectural treasure that attracts admirers of Frank Lloyd Wright's work from around the world.

The Taliesin West buildings in the proposed 10.6 acre HP boundary are historically significant and should be placed on the Scottsdale Historic Register because; 1. they represent the work of a master architect and embody his design philosophy and artistic values; 2. they are associated with Frank Lloyd Wright's lifestyle, including his home and studio; and 3. they represent the historic context of Scottsdale's development as an arts colony and tourist destination.