

**Recap of White Rock East Coalition of Area Neighborhoods Meeting
with Reps of Dallas Parks and Recreation.
Feb 28, 2014**

Representatives of the White Rock East Coalition of Area Neighborhoods met with two city park officials last Friday morning to discuss the future of White Rock Lake and our surrounding neighborhoods. Sheffie Kadane, City Council Representative, District 9, had RSVP'd to attend, but in the interim had to schedule a medical appointment and sent his regrets.

Willis Winter, director of the City of Dallas Parks and Recreation, and Gerald Worrall, representative from District 9 to the City of Dallas Parks and Recreation Board were in attendance, as well as Leigh Ann Ellis and David Shinn (Peninsula NA), Mitch Womble (Eastwood NA), Scott Robson (Lochwood NA), and me, Charles "Buzzy" Wicker (Old Lake Highlands NA).

The objective of the meeting was for the coalition to state plain and simple, in the strongest possible terms, that we are against the proposed restaurant development at Boy Scout Hill, and also to express to them our willingness and commitment to be a proactive player in creating the future of Dallas on the east side of the lake.

As for Boy Scout Hill, Winters said even if the developers were able to get a majority consensus from the neighborhoods to be on board with the restaurant, which seems unlikely at this point, the city would then hold their own public meetings to determine the impact a commercial development would have on the area. It would be at these public meetings where citizens would be able to express their opinions regarding the development of the restaurant. Worrall added these proposals take a long time and gave for an example the three year process it took to make improvements to the walking trails on the east side of the lake. The two of them brought up many concerns that this development would entail such as traffic, parking, sewage, parkland, wildlife, public bid processes, and many other "functional adjacencies" that would need to coexist for before the project can proceed.

In other news, Winters shared with us that the Arboretum's two horticultural greenhouses have been located on Highland St, just north of Ferguson, instead of at Sunset Bay. Also, contrary to a popular rumor making the rounds, the plans for Dallas United Club's building have not been altered to make it "as big as an Albertsons."

The hour long meeting concluded with all of the attendees agreeing to work together in updating the 1987 White Rock Lake Master Plan, making it a blueprint for positive creation instead of reacting to ad hoc entities that pop up and redirect our energy away from the goal of keeping White Rock the best, biggest park in Dallas. "It would have been nice to have Sheffie here today so that he could tell us one way or the other that this development is not happening or that it could happen so that we can focus our attention where it needs to be. A lot of energy on both sides of the issue has been expended and it would be nice to have an accurate status check on its feasibility," said David Shinn of the Peninsula NA.

"It's important that our current and future plans for White Rock be open and transparent," said Leigh Ann Ellis, former DISD School Board Member and organizer of the coalition, "and as the city of Dallas grows and grows, our neighborhood parkland is just too important for our well being to conduct business any other way."

(provided by Charles "Buzzy" Wicker)