

Report by Charles Wicker about a conversation between Sheffie Kadane and Leigh Ann Ellis

One of the members of White Rock East Coalition of Area Neighborhoods (WE CAN) received an update from Sheffie Kadane, City of Dallas Councilman, District 9, who shared his understandings of the potential restaurant development on Boy Scout Hill.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, March 5, Leigh Ann Ellis, organizer of the newly formed coalition had a "pleasant conversation" over the phone with Kadane, who told her the restaurant is not a done deal and that nothing surreptitious is in the works. "Sheffie told me no plans have been put forward in the way of rezoning for this development," said Ellis, "and he also stated that everything has to go through Willis (Winters) first before any resolution on this initiative reaches the city council."

Last week, in a meeting with Willis Winters, Director of the Park and Recreation Department for the City of Dallas, and Gerry Worrall, the Park and Recreation Board Member for Council District 9, representatives of WE CAN told the city officials that the neighborhood associations we represent oppose any future development, such as a restaurant, without open and transparent processes and a review of White Rock public land uses. When asked what the next step for the developers would be, Winters told us that even if the developers said the people of our neighborhoods were on board with the development, the city would hold its own public meetings and at that time would invite citizens to express their viewpoints on the issue.

"It was nice to hear from Sheffie himself on this topic and to get his assurances that nothing is going on. Sheffie also told me that he told the developers, in a meeting he had with them, that the project needs the support of the three neighborhoods along the east side to proceed," said Ellis. "But we still have to be very diligent about the whole situation. I also took the opportunity to tell him we want and expect to be at the table for any talks concerning the future of the lake and, specifically, our neighborhoods."