



February 15, 2018

RE: THE CHALLENGES OF TALIESIN WEST

After the city staff finishes their study of possible sites in which to locate Desert EDGE, we anticipate they will verify previous studies that concluded the most viable site for the project is at the Gateway Trailhead.

Locating Desert EDGE at the Gateway has been contemplated for decades and has been included in the Preserve's Access Area Report and the Municipal Use Master Site Plan that was approved for the Gateway in 2007.

Apart from political expediency, the site with the most challenges is clearly Taliesin West. Choosing to relocate the project to Taliesin West would be tantamount to starting the entire DDC/Desert EDGE process over – which would mean the considerable investment of time, money and effort would have been wasted.

Taliesin's neighbors are already starting to organize their opposition.

It's well documented that the groups responsible for Taliesin West have their own challenges in keeping the facility functioning at its highest level. So taking on how to integrate Desert EDGE into their location – plus vying for the opportunity to run it – would be an additional burden.

The project currently enjoys a great partnership between two groups, Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale and Arizona State University. ASU's Global Drylands Center, which will be the distinguished research component of the project, will enhance both the visitor's experience and education about the Sonoran Desert.

Desert EDGE Advocates are eager to review the city's recommendations about the best location for the project – and we will help resolve the selection of the "right" site however we can.

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Our mailing address is:

Desert Edge Advocates

#260

7349 North Via Paseo del Sur #515

Scottsdale, Az 85258

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