

# TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY

## Proposal For Ascension Spire Gift



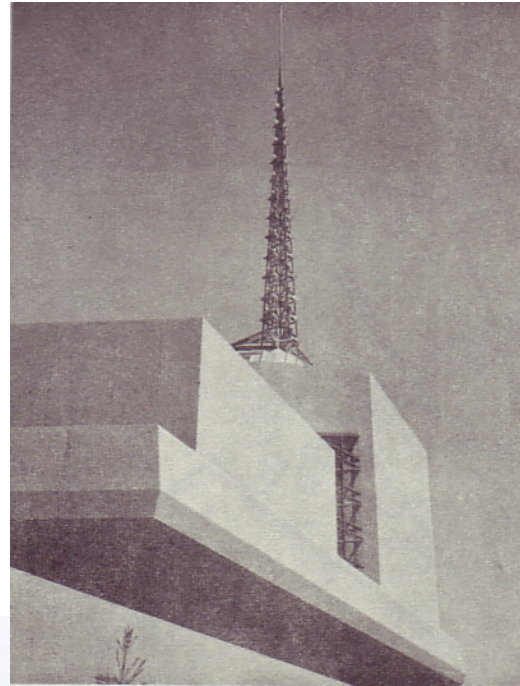
Scott Jarson - Catherine Kauffman  
June 13, 2024



# History: The Ascension Lutheran Church

This structure was commissioned and built between 1961 and 1963

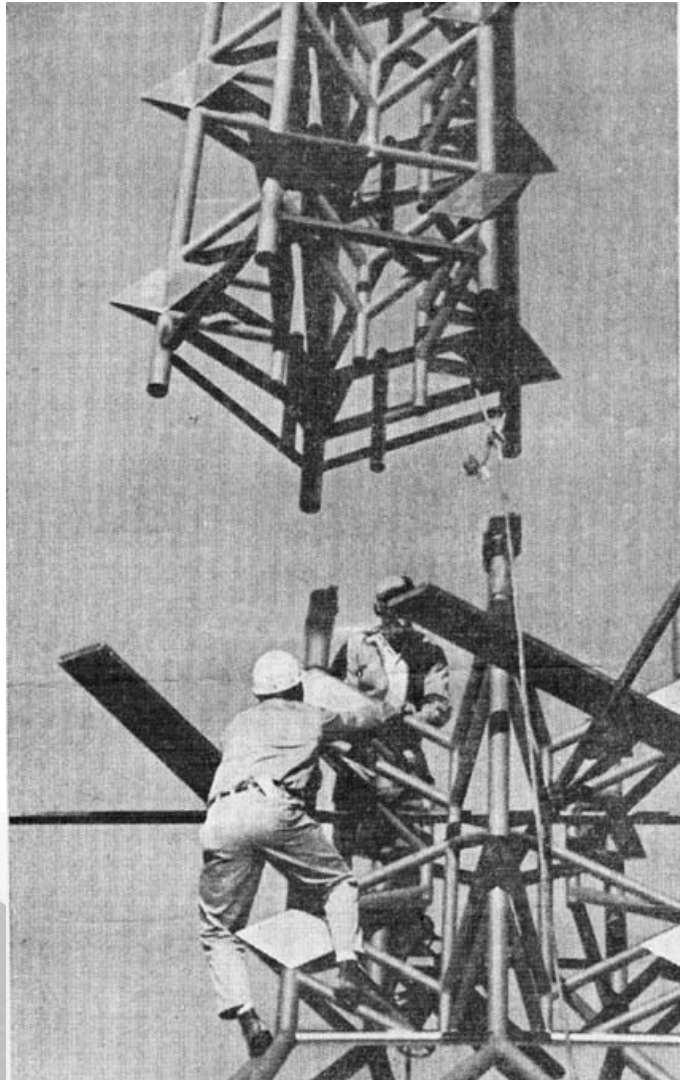
- The Ascension Lutheran Building and Spire was designed by **Frank Lloyd Wright's** long time Apprentice Associate and son in-law, **William Wesley Peters**, in Association with Taliesin Associated Architects.





## History: Ascension Lutheran

- At the time of the design, many of the Taliesin Associated Architects were Town residents, cementing the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright and Taliesin Architects within the community of our Town



# History: Ascension Lutheran

- It has been a visible “gateway” architectural landmark in the Town since it’s construction.
- The structure has served the community and has a communal history with Town residents.
- The Building and Property have been **sold** and will likely be demolished.



# Saving a Piece of History



- A group of interested and concerned Town Residents and Volunteers have come together in order to negotiate a gift of an special architectural element of this significant structure.



# Saving a Piece of History



Our Group include the following dedicated resident volunteers:

- Council Member Christine LaBelle
- Historical Advisory Committee Chair Catherine Kauffman
- Hillside Committee Chair Scott Jarson

The Citizen Group also wishes to thank Architects, Archivists and Design/build Professionals who have donated their time and expertise to assist with research and concepts-

Resident Doug Jordan - Initial contributor,  
Erik Peterson - Jochen Walther - Eric O'Malley - James Trahan -  
Michael Perino – C.P. Drewett



# Saving The Spire

- The Ascension Spire, easily the most visible aspect of the Taliesin design, was selected as a focus for preservation for its integrity, visual impact and aspirational nature-
- The Spire stands to remind residents of our Town's unique history, and is often associated as a foreground element to the east-facing Mummy Mountain corridor-
- Our proposal is part of a plan to save the Spire, a noted piece of Town History, but also an internationally recognized architectural detail by Taliesin Architects-



# Saving a Piece of History



- A unique opportunity has been presented that would allow the signature artistic spire portion of this building to be preserved...

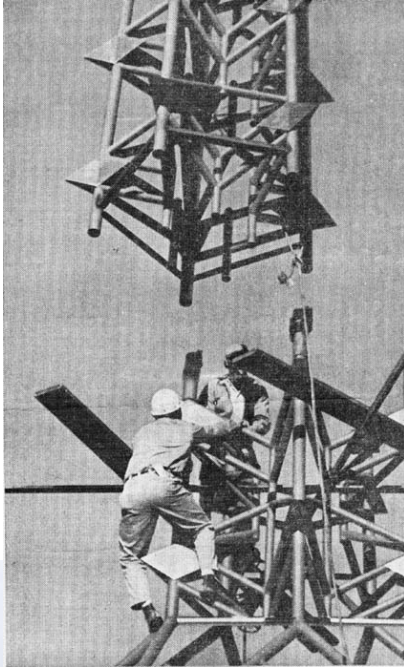


# Saving The Spire - Next Steps

- After considerable study, planning and outreach, our Citizen Group has determined that the spire could be saved and relocated, preserving a portion of this architectural legacy
- After outreach and discussion, the property owner is willing to gift this spire to the Town.



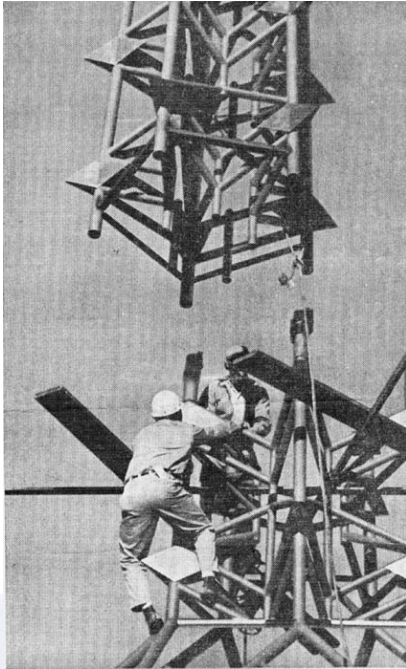
# Saving The Spire - Next Steps



- The Current Owner of the parcel indicates that they will **gift the spire at no cost.**
- The Current Owner of the parcel indicates that they will also **assist in removal of the spire and will contribute to the relocation efforts and cost**
- As needed, we have determined that there would be broad interest for financial support to cover any overrun of removal and transport costs, as well as the future costs of relocation as may be needed.



# Saving The Spire - Next Steps



- We propose and ask that that the Council consider and approve acceptance of this gift to the Town
- We ask the Council consider and approve storage of the sectioned Spire so that future use and installation can be explored and implemented.



# The Spire lives on -

- Once the gift is secured and the spire “saved”, a number of ideas could be explored as to the future use of this historic sculptural element so that it could be a community-wide asset.



# The Spire lives on as Community Art

- The volunteers propose that at a future time we collectively explore ideas to install and repurpose the Spire, removing any religious reference, so that it could become a community asset.



# A Concept For Future Installation



## TOPV Spire Installation and Future Use

This details illustrates how a relocated Spire might allow placement of a variety of messages or plaques, creating a unique visual beacon for residents and visitors;

A place of honor, Historic markers or milestones, or inspirational messaging about our Town's unique and special history



## Saving The Spire

Our volunteer group views relocation, storage and future installation of the **Spire** a celebration of an important piece of our Town's history... a reflection on our past and future...

A perfect example of targeted community preservation.



**THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY!**  
**Comments and Questions?**

