

**LAND USE COMMITTEE
OF THE ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

August 3, 2010 7:00 P.M.

Altadena Community Center, 730 E Altadena Dr, Altadena, CA

A regular meeting of the Land Use Committee of the Altadena Town Council was held at the abovementioned date and time in the Community Room of the Altadena Community Center, 730 East Altadena Drive, Altadena CA.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 P.M. by Acting Chairman Anthony Cheng. Chairman Brian League was unable to attend the meeting.

OPENING BUSINESS

1. Roll Call

The following Members, constituting a quorum, were present at roll call: Gene Campbell, Anthony Cheng, Amy Cienfuegos, Doug Colliflower, Ruth Edwards, Mark Goldschmidt, Steve Haussler, Tecumseh Shackelford, Gino Sund, Greg Stanton. Diane Marcussen and Okorie Ezieme arrived just after roll call. Anthony Hasler was seated tonight. 13 Members total were present.

The following Committee members were absent: Phillip Barela (excused), Ken Roberts, Sandra Thomas.

2. Minutes Approval

Motion to approve the April 2010 minutes was made by Member Edwards, seconded by Member Cienfuegos, and approved (11-0-2).

3. Public Comment

- a. Theresa Williams. 716 Ventura St. Requested the Committee stay within its jurisdiction. Her family has suffered harassment due to the Committee assisting in investigating allegations about her property back in 2005-2007. She submitted a letter detailing these incidents for the record.

PUBLIC HEARING & ACTION ITEMS

4. 349 W Altadena Dr (CT4603.01) – Colliflower/Stanton

Applicant: Anthony Serpa for T-Mobile

R2008-00738 (CUP R200800079) filed 04/22/2008 – R1-7500 – ZP2 Rob Glaser

This is for the reconsideration of an application which was approved in 2004 but never constructed. The new design differs from the prior approval and is a proposed 35 foot

mono pine with 12 antennae. In addition to the antenna array, there will be a 5 x 20 foot structure for telecommunications equipment.

Member Marcussen stated she would not vote on this agenda item because she works for AT&T.

The consultant for the applicant gave a brief summary of the project. He distributed copies of the photo-simulations and site plans.

Cingular (which was subsequently acquired by T-Mobile) had an approval for this site back in 2004. It was a facility that was going to be disguised in the steeple but the new design calls for a monopine. There is a temporary site with 3 antennae at the site already since 2006. After T-Mobile bought Cingular's network, T-Mobile has been reviewing all the Cingular sites for possible improvements resulting in the current proposal for this site. This proposal would convert the temporary facility into a permanent mono pine structure.

The proposed monopine is 35' with 12 antennae plus a separate equipment cabinet. It will be located to the rear of the parking lot, which abuts SFRs. These SFRs have already been facing the temporary wood tower for several years. The wood tower and the proposed tower are both 35'. The neighbors were noticed by Member Stanton using flyers.

There is no existing large permanent equipment cabinet at the temporary site.

Member Sund asked if this permanent facility will improve coverage. The applicant stated it will improve coverage and reliability. The applicant did not bring propagation maps but said coverage should improve greatly within a half mile radius. Member Sund also inquired about the potential for co-location. The applicant stated it will be possible but probably rare. To add an additional carrier would probably require a height increase to the pole.

Member Cheng asked whether the surrounding trees that are much taller will visually dwarf the mono pine and not impact the aesthetics of the community. The applicant explained that the existing trees are indeed much taller as shown in the photosims.

Public comment:

1. Renee Robertson. 399 W Altadena Dr. The applicant said the neighbors originally asked the church not to erect the facility at this site. The neighbors were researching the effects of the radiation from the pole on health. One neighbor has already moved away due to the temporary pole. She was concerned about the negative effect on their health.

2. Kim Coleman. 399 W Altadena Dr. Inquired about the wattage at the site. She read aloud some research regarding the wattage limitations of various countries. She inquired whether there are alternative sites. She also stated that the neighbors on Altadena and Colanda will see the pole.

Given the above discussion, and on motion duly made by Member Stanton, seconded by Member Sund, and approved (11-1-1) with Member Campbell in opposition and Member Marcussen abstaining, it was

RESOLVED the Committee recommend that the Altadena Town Council send a letter to County Regional Planning recommending APPROVAL of R2008-00738 (CUP R200800079) for T-Mobile to install an unmanned telecommunications facility disguised as a 35 foot monopine located in the R1-7500 zone at 347 W. Altadena Dr., and the associated equipment cabinet.

During discussion, the applicant was asked to address some of the questions raised during the public comment period. He stated he did not have specific health statistics regarding the effects of such wireless towers. He also said the new tower will emit greater wattage than the temporary pole but that T-Mobile will make sure the wattage is within established federal standards. In regards to alternative sites, the applicant stated that in this case, this is already an existing site so this proposal is merely improving on it and making it a more permanent structure. Other sites have been explored but all feasible sites have already been taken.

Also during discussion, Member Sund thanked the community for its public comment but reminded the Committee that we are restricted by the Federal Communication Act from basing any action on the potential health effects of electromagnetic radiation from wireless towers. Member Edwards reiterated the applicant's point that T-Mobile does operate with established standards and pointed out that newer towers now are more effective at lower levels of emission.

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. **446 E Mendocino St.** Member Goldschmidt stated this house has been vacant for over 10 years. It has been used by squatters. It has been recently sold and should soon be improved.
6. **Regional Growth Forecast.** Member Sund asked for volunteers from the Committee to help with the Southern California of Governments growth forecast project that is prepared every five years. Member Sund stated the draft of the growth plan shows Altadena to grow by roughly 50% of 60,000 additional residents. Member Haussler

agreed to help Member Sund with the project. The next step is to have Census Tract reps review the growth forecasts and provide input as to areas and/or even parcels that will limit such growth projections.

7. **New cases filed.** Member Cheng gave a summary of recent case filings in Altadena.

FUTURE POTENTIAL PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

8. None.

There being no further business being brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned to the next scheduled regular meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the Community Room of the Altadena Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Member Anthony Cheng
Communications & Correspondence Secretary