

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

July 7, 2009 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 7:11 P.M. by Chairman Brian League.

OPENING BUSINESS

1. Roll Call

The following Members, constituting a quorum, were present at roll call: Phillip Barela, Anthony Cheng, Sarah Fuller, Susan Goldman, Mark Goldschmidt, Diane Marcussen, and Gino Sund; ATC Member Alice Wessen substituted in for Greg Stanton for CT4603.01. Okorie Ezieme arrived after roll call.

The following Committee members were absent: Dennis Bridwell, Gene Campbell, Ruth Edwards, Tecumseh Shackelford, Greg Stanton, Sandra Thomas, Cynthia Tilleman.

2. Agenda Approval

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Member Sund, seconded by Member Goldschmidt, and approved 8-0-1.

3. Minutes Approval

Motion to approve the May 2009 minutes was made by Member Sund, seconded by Member Barela, and approved 8-0-1.

4. Public Comment – none.

PUBLIC HEARING & ACTION ITEMS

5. 3406 Fair Oaks Ave (CT4602) – Ezemie/Fuller

Applicant: Richard Ambrosini, Reliant Land Services, Inc. on behalf of AT&T Mobility R2008-01986 filed 10/29/2008 – R1-10000 – ZP2 – Diane Aranda
Proposed 60 foot “monopine” wireless telecommunications facility which can accommodate multiple mobile phone providers’ antennae and equipment.

Original plan was for a monopalm but it has been changed to a monopine.

Mr. Ambrosini is the consultant representing AT&T and gave a summary of the project. He explained that there is very poor coverage for both AT&T and T-Mobile in that area. The location was strategically chosen to not overlap with other towers in the area and to fit the uses in the area. T-Mobile may co-locate on the monopine and be the second carrier on the tower. The applicant provided an electronic copy of the CUP application at the meeting.

Member Goldschmidt asked how many carriers could be co-located on a tower. The applicant explained that the height of the tower determines how many carriers can be co-located. With the 65' height limit set by the County for our area, only two carriers could be co-located. MetroPCS could possibly sit below the two carriers due to its different technology.

Member Sund asked whether the applicant is open to any other sites in the area. The applicant stated that this application is for this particular site. After doing much research, this site is the most optimal of the properties that are available for leasing. Member Sund asked for clarification as to exactly where on the site the monopine would be located and the applicant pointed it out on the old simulations distributed via email. The applicant also mentioned that trees may be planted around the monopine to mitigate its aesthetic impact on the corner. Member Sund stated that the location of the monopine as pointed out by the applicant was different than shown on the simulations.

Member Sund stated he would only support an approval where the applicant will be prohibited from using barbed wire on the project.

Member Wessen stated that she needs to have a full set of documentation before making a decision because the plans have been changed since the version distributed via email before the meeting to Members.

Member Fuller asked whether reception would be improved significantly by the tower for T-Mobile and the applicant replied yes.

Member Ezieme stated he had met with the applicant beforehand and that he was alarmed by the number of dropped 911 emergency calls currently at 350 so the tower would be a welcome means to alleviate such a problem. However, the materials distributed are outdated since the plans are different. He also commented that he inquired with the applicant regarding the health issues of the EMF radiation and that given the distance of the transmitters, the health risk is minimal. He reiterated that it would have been more helpful had the applicant come with a more robust presentation.

Public comment:

- A. Ken Gruberman. 477 E Altadena Dr. He stated that the 911 connection issue is quite important. He could not get through via cell phone a few weeks ago and someone he knows almost died. He is in support of a tower going up to improve reception and connectivity to 911 services.
- B. Holly Rundberg. 3504 McNally Ave. She passed around her digital camera with a picture of the monopine at the Apple Market. She is also in support of the project to improve 911 connectivity for emergency purposes. She lives roughly 500 feet from the site.
- C. Harold Charles. 350 E Loma Alta Dr. He inquired the about the radius of the improved reception by the tower. He asked about how many more sites will be proposed by the applicant. He is concerned by the radiation by the tower and potential related health issues.
- D. Herbert Simmons. 478 Devonwood Rd. Asked why Verizon has good reception but not AT&T. Also asked whether all neighbors have been notified within 300' of the site. Finally, he asked how many cell sites are there in the immediate area. Chairman League directed Mr. Simmons to inquire with the County regarding these questions.
- E. Greg Middleton. 3520 McNally Ave. Lives about 100' from this site. He stated they get strong winds in the area and asked whether these towers are strong enough for the winds and whether power will go out if the area loses power which happens frequently there. He is an AT&T U-Verse customer and stated that if he loses connectivity to his U-Verse box, he would have no telephone service and so having the tower up would at least provide him cell service for safety.

Member Goldschmidt stated that a year or so ago, the Committee recommended to the Town Council that the Town Council not approve further cell phone towers unless the County came forward with a comprehensive plan for all future towers. He also urged the applicant to return with an updated and more thorough package for consideration by the Committee since today's materials were outdated and incomplete.

Given the above discussion, and on motion duly made by Member Sund, seconded by Member Wessen, and approved (8-0-0), it was

RESOLVED the Committee continue the discussion of Project R2008-01986 for a monopine wireless telecommunications facility at 3406 Fair Oaks Ave to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Committee then discussed at length whether at a high level it should hear future cell phone tower cases or not to provide an opinion at all.

Member Sund stated he wished a better site could be found since this particular site is right in the middle of a residential neighborhood. He wishes there could be a way to suggest sites acceptable by the community to the carriers for future towers.

Member Cheng read the original resolution barring the ATC from approving future cell phone towers. The Committee agreed that the next steps to take would be to hear cell phone projects and still make recommendations to the ATC. The ATC can take steps, if appropriate, to rescind the resolution that automatically denies all cell tower projects, and make recommendations on future cell tower projects.

Member Wessen stated she hopes the Committee does review these cell phone tower projects and provide feedback since these towers definitely impact our community and provide communications safety especially being a high fire hazard zone.

Member Goldman stated she would have recused herself from a vote since AT&T is a client of hers.

INFORMATION ITEMS

6. Reports & Organizational Matters

A. Announcements

- i. New ATC Members. Member Sund stated new ATC members have been seated and the selection of a Chair will occur soon.
- ii. Mesrob Sahag Armenian School. Member Sund stated that the school has been granted a stay for the temporary injunction during an appeal so can possibly reopen the school. The County is now seeking a permanent injunction but cannot close the school at this point.

FUTURE POTENTIAL PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

7. None.

No further business being brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned to the next scheduled regular meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Community Room of the Altadena Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Member Anthony Cheng
Communications & Correspondence Secretary