

Westwood Civic Association Steering Meeting – 12/11/12

Present: M. Kuhl, V. Baumann, M. Gweyn, K.Strasser, J. Kimmet, I.McNulty, M. Jenkins, J. Minor

Excused: J. Sess, B. Weber, J. Hildebrand
3030 Montclair

President Joel Kimmet called the meeting to order.

3030 Montclair -

The purpose is to discuss the cell tower plans submitted by ATT. Mr. Ed Block with GPD group was present. GPD are the engineers for this cell tower project.

Presentation by Mr. Block:

ATT is the cell carrier trying to improve wireless coverage. They try to look for existing towers to collocate. This avoids the process of needing to build an entirely new tower. The drawings for the site plan from 1991 were shown to us. A second tower is not going to be built, but rather antennas will be added to the tower already in place. There is an existing Verizon shelter at 3030 Montclair. There are other smaller companies on the tower too. The current building will be expanded. A photo was shown of the building presently in place. A second building will be built on the site that is 1.5 feet longer than the building already in place. The fence will be extended 15 feet.

15' x 28' new building

15' x 26' old building

There will be plants used to buffer and shield the new building from view. ATC, American Tower Corporation, manages this site. AT&T will bid out the job to a contractor to do the work on the site and build the new building.

Mr. Bach, Montclair neighbor, stated that his fence has been damaged by people working at the site in the past.

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The Federal Government did a study with regard to the emissions and the emissions were found to be at safe levels coming from the antennas.

The first attempt is always to find an existing tower which is why this site has been chosen for the expansion.

(Conda) Why a second building?

(Block) The building already there belongs to Verizon. The new building will be AT&T. AT&T and Verizon will share the tower.

The owner of a 100 year old building voiced concern that his foundation will be fractured. He lives right next door to the site.

(Kuhl) My concern is that real normal people who own homes around there already feel it is loud. Another building will just make it all the louder. My suggestion is that you find another location. I don't think this is the right thing to do.

(Block) We try to find existing towers.

(Conda) Could you do what you want to do without building another building?

(Block) No we could not.

(Kimmet) Does the building itself have any insulation for when the generator is on?

(Block) The generator only kicks on in an emergency situation. They do cycle them. I don't know if this new building will have a generator. The

generators in place already are tested, run, etc. during busy times of the day, not in the middle of the night.

(Bach) Where is the access point to the property?

(Block) Bigger equipment would probably come in from Harrison.

(McNulty) Do companies sometimes own the property and other times lease the property?

(Block) Radio engineers will say, "We need a site in this are." The property owner is talked to. There will be zoning, environmental checks, leases, etc. to ready the site for building.

(Kimmet) If noise is a concern, would your company be willing to add extra insulation?

(Bach) We live next door and already have problems with noise, etc. at this site. We don't want to expand the operations on this site.

Motion by Mary Jenkins to oppose the conditional use request for 3030 Montclair
Seconded by Mary Kuhl
All in favor

Melva Gwynn will attend the hearing tomorrow at 9a.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mary Jenkins, seconded by K. Strasser.

Meeting adjourned by President Kimmet