

# Long Pond Wireless Telecommunications Facility Neighborhood Meeting Summary

## City Presentation Overview

### Sylvia Tatman-Burruss – Neighborhood Services

- Brief overview of Neighborhood Services role at tonight's meeting.
- Ground rules for communication

### Clay Frickey – Planning Services

- The project is going through the Addition of Permitted Use (APU), process and this is the second of two required neighborhood meetings.
- Applicant has formally submitted a Project Development Plan and has gone through two rounds of staff review.
- Overview of project milestones
- Overview of Addition of Permitted Use Criteria
  - Appropriate use in zone district
  - Must conform of the other uses in the zone
  - Design that fundamentally fits in with the neighborhood
  - Nuisance (noise, glare, smell, etc...)
  - Will not change the predominant character of the surrounding area
  - Fundamentally compatible use
  - Two neighborhood meetings required
  - Recommendation from Planning & Zoning Board
  - Decision maker = City Council
- Map of every wireless facility approved since 1996
  - 158 sites at 71 locations

## Applicant Presentation

### Caleb Crossland – Applicant

- Expressed the area has a need for wireless coverage and capacity.
- The intent of the new Wireless Tower is to:
  - Provide coverage and capacity
  - Improve network
  - Improved safety response
- Why the applicant selected the location:
  - Grade changes challenge the signal effectiveness to the east of the site.
  - Unable to secure a lease with Anheuser Bush

- Facility design is a stealth silo that is 65' tall. The base will have ground equipment that provides the site with needed infrastructure.
- Presentation of photo simulations of proposed tower from numerous vantage points
- Applicant addressed RF and spoke about ionizing and nonionizing radiation and presented the electromagnetic spectrum

## Question and Answer Summary

**Question:** Who is the applicant?

**Answer (City):** A cell tower builder

**Question:** Is there anyone else here for any other reason than health concerns?

**Comment:** Yes!

**Question:** Would the duration of holding a phone up to your face expose you to the same amount of radiation a tower would 24/7?

**Answer (Applicant):** I don't know.

**Comment:** I don't believe the American Cancer Society's study results.

**Comment:** Local government cannot make a decision of the location of the equipment. Regulatory framework - supremacy clause gives the Federal Government domain over regulation of the radio waves.

**Question:** Why did Budweiser say no?

**Answer (Applicant):** They just said no, I do not have a reason.

**Question:** Do we have a say in whether the tower can go there?

**Answer (City):** Yes, you can provide testimony in regards to the design of the tower at P&Z and City Council.

**Comment:** We feel that the tower is largely out of scale. The tower devalues our neighborhood. Please keep the neighborhood free of unsightly and disruptive structures.

**Question:** Who did you speak to at Budweiser and when?

**Answer (Applicant):** I do not have that information, please find my contact information.

**Question:** Does your company locate antennas on buildings?

**Answer (Applicant):** Yes, we have had contracts to provide that service.

**Question:** How long have you worked with Atlas?

**Answer (Applicant):** Since 2005

**Question:** Does the property get money for leasing to the cell tower?

**Comment:** The Country Club said they thought they were in contract with you but when they contacted you, you already said you found another location.

**Question:** Would this be the first time a cell tower is installed in a Low Density Mixed Use Neighborhood LMN zone district?

**Answer (City):** Yes

**Question:** Is there a setback requirement?

**Answer (City):** Yes, there is a 1' to 1' setback or the requirement can be waived if the structure is designed to collapse.

**Question:** Why does the City of Fort Collins not allow cell towers on City Property?

**Answer (City):** Avoid blowback and possible issue of a conflict of interest.

**Comment:** There have yet to be conclusive studies of how detrimental these radio waves are.

**Comment:** The best chance to answer the question of "is this the best location for this?" is to organize and present at P&Z and City Council.

**Question:** Could we get free cell service for life as part of this negotiation?

**Comment:** There is a proposed school there I think we should think about the future of how the tower would affect the people who attend the school.

**Question:** How will this impact development potential and adjacent property owners. In the future who is going to be liable if anything happens to the tower?

**Answer (City):** Property values are not criteria the City of Fort Collins can use to evaluate a project.

**Question:** Do you have a cell tower in your back yard?

**Answer (Applicant):** Yes, I live in Denver and there are eight antennas in my backyard.

**Question:** Where does the truck access the tower?

**Answer (Applicant):** From the existing drive.

**Question:** Do you have to have lights on the tower?

**Answer (Applicant):** The Federal Aviation Administration certified that we do not need a light.

**Question:** What maintenance activities will happen at night?

**Answer (Applicant):** Nothing will happen at night with no noticeable noise.

**Comment:** We are new residents and if I would have known that the cell I would not have bought my house.

**Question:** Why does it have to be a silo?

**Answer (Applicant):** It is an aesthetic thing. Our facilities have to be considered stealth and so we can't just put up a pole.

**Question:** In an electrical storm are these magnets to lightning?

**Answer (Applicant):** The sites are completely grounded. The structure is made of fiberglass and steel and will be grounded.

**Question:** What if I have Sprint?

**Answer (Applicant):** That's when the competition comes in and tries to compete.

**Comment:** My concern is that it is an eye sore.

**Comment:** This will obstruct my view of Long's Peak.

**Comment:** It is no different than if the 40 acres behind gets developed.

**Comment:** I am disappointed you don't have a technical person here.

**Question:** Why couldn't you find a better site?

**Answer (Applicant):** We are seeing a fundamental shift in the way we communicate. We have a network 15 years ago that a single cell phone tower could serve the purpose of a phone. The increase in data transmission requires the antennas to be closer to the populations they serve.

**Comment (City):** I'll make a request to have a RF engineer at the Planning and Zoning board.

**Answer (Applicant):** We will make every effort to answer all of your questions.

**Question (City):** Do you all have a better recommendation of the site location or a design that would fit in better with the neighborhood?

**Comment:** I think you are too late for this location and that you should have been earlier to get your cell phone tower in where you want it. It's not fair to people who bought here.

**Question:** Why here and why not anywhere else?

**Answer (Applicant):** Budweiser is in a low location and would not serve the residents well. It's a non-starter on undeveloped land because the future development layout is uncertain.

**Comment:** I am the nearest neighbor and from every point on my property I will be able see this tower and it is not about us wanting to have good cell coverage but we think there is a better location.

**Question:** How about replacing the tall tower with distributed smaller towers?

**Answer (Applicant):** As time goes on there will be more placements of tower in this area.

**Comment:** If you have a 10-foot tower I will let you build it in my backyard.

**Question:** How long will the tower structure be there?

**Answer (Applicant):** For purposes of this conversation, it's a permanent structure.

**Question:** How many towers does your company manage in Fort Collins?

**Answer (Applicant):** Eight or Ten

**Answer (Applicant):** We are an infrastructure company; we place the tower where cell phone companies need to locate.

**Comment:** My main concern is that big, large companies choose to build more towers instead of optimizing old locations and that this is more an issue of efficiency.

**Question:** Are all the existing towers upgraded?

**Answer (Applicant):** Verizon constantly upgrades cell sites as needed.

**Comment:** We should be here to comment on the design. My RF engineer gives me a ½ mile radius to place a site and serve the neighborhoods.

**Question:** I didn't see any comments from the Poudre School District from conceptual review. Why was the school planner not involved in this process?

**Answer (Answer):** Poudre School District has an interest in residential developments so they can make sure they can accommodate the influx of new students. They don't review proposals like this since they don't have an impact on classroom size. Also, PSD no longer co-locates cell towers on any of their sites.

**Question:** How are we examining the zoning? When was this updated last?

**Answer (City):** Two years ago as part of the Mountain Vista Sub-area Plan update.

**Comment:** Budweiser is really the place for this tower, not the neighborhood.

**Question:** How is the power tested so that it is operated within the proper parameter?

**Answer (Applicant):** Verizon contracts with 3<sup>rd</sup> party company to conduct pre and post measurements.

**Question:** How do you make your decision?

**Question:** Will Platt River Power Authority let you co-locate?

**Answer (Applicant):** No, Platt River will not co-locate and are actively removing towers as leases expire.

**Question:** What reassurance do I have that no one will mess with my animals? If I do have issues can I trust that they will be resolved?

**Answer (Applicant):** Atlas will be responsible for maintaining any relationship with adjacent property owners.

**Question:** If this goes through does it open up room for other projects in residential areas?

**Answer (City):** No, it would not open the door for any other situations without going through the same process.

**Question:** How many years is the lease?

**Answer (Applicant):** You might as well expect a lifetime; power companies only sign agreements that are 5 years or less.

**Comment:** I feel like this is impacting more people in negative ways than positive. I feel like a lot of people have a lot of cell towers go in places without people knowing and the individuals in this country are being taken advantage of.