

## Mountain Vista Wireless Telecommunications Facility Neighborhood Meeting Summary

**Date:** March 30, 2016  
**Facilitator:** Clay Frickey (City of Fort Collins – Planning Services)  
**Presenters:** Clay Frickey (City of Fort Collins – Planning Services)  
Caleb Crosland (Applicant)

### City Presentation Summary:

- This is the first neighborhood meeting
- The applicant has not made a formal submittal of the proposal
- The applicant is required to hold two neighborhood meetings and beyond that there are specific criteria city staff looks at to decide if the project is appropriate
- Project will be reviewed by Planning & Zoning Board with the final decision made by City Council

### Applicant Presentation Summary:

The conceptual design is a stealth silo which is made of fiberglass material. Around the base of the silo will be fenced in equipment (typically a back-up generator)

- Verizon is the targeted Carrier
- 60 feet in height
- Addressing an issue of low coverage in the area
- Proposed site of tower is 2008 Turnberry Road
- 60 foot height is necessary to reach over nearby buildings and houses in order to provide better service

### Questions and Answers

**Question (Citizen):**

Which one is Turnberry Road?

**Response (Applicant):**

This one right here (points to screen).

**Comment (Applicant):**

The design we are looking at is a stealth silo and this is a fiberglass material and there will be some equipment around the ground. There will be a fence around the ground equipment.

**Question (Citizen):**

Is that a 60ft tower?

Response (Applicant):

I couldn't tell you, it is just an example.

Comment (Applicant):

So the towers cover less area and that's why there's more of them, they communicate with each other but basically that's why we need to be close to residential areas, is that we can't just be, you know, way back by Budweiser and shoot it over and have everything work great because it's too hard to cover that area. It's a circular area, it's too many users and then also for the exchange between the phone and antennas it needs to be closer.

Question (Citizen):

What other locations have you looked at?

Answer (Applicant):

I've looked pretty hard for leasing this area so I guess I can just, I guess, to the north and a little bit to the east there is only so far that we can go. There's property owned by Budweiser, there's a few owned by the city and few more private properties, but there are limits on zoning and location and height. So a nice tall area where it can see a lot of the surrounding area so we wouldn't need a really tall tower.

Comment (Applicant):

I'll finish, and then I'll take questions if that's all right? The height is just basically enough to cover the area and reach over the buildings and houses that are in that area and provide the necessary height for service providers. I have a lot of things I can send you by email. Yes, it's safe. The 60ft height is required to get over area building heights and provide service for more carriers. It is safe at the base of most of these towers the radio frequency 1,000 times less than what the FCC says is safe. The towers are turned down because of the area. They are not super strong power and the towers are generally safe. There is more condensed radiation coming out of your cell phones than the tower because it is spread over a wider area. That's my contact information Caleb Crosland (refers to slide on projection screen).

Comment (City):

Start here and go over here (points to citizens in audience).

Question (Citizen):

Is there already an agreement with the farm?

Answer (Applicant):

Yes we have a lease.

Question (Citizen):

What's going to be the increased range for cell phones? Is there a good portion that is not going to cover our area?

Question (Citizen):

Is it from Lemay all the way over there all the way to Douglas?

Answer (Applicant):

I'm not an RF engineer, I'm a tower developer. No more than a circular mile, a little more could be two miles or so but there are towers that work together to expand coverage.

Question (Citizen):

Where is the closet existing tower right now?

Answer (Applicant):

Near College and Willox

Question (Citizen):

Are you a private builder of the tower who leases it out to a company?

Answer (Applicant):

Yes, we are the tower builder and Verizon is the provider interested in this tower.

Question (Citizen):

There is one that looks like a pine tree. How tall is the silo compared to that? Why can't you use that instead?

Answer (Applicant):

I don't know. If we could get the pine tree approved it would be much less expensive.

Answer (City):

The city has stealth standards for development and similar thought here, we didn't think a tall pine tree would look right in an agrarian area. We tend to discourage things that do not fit the character of the area.

Answer (Applicant):

On another note, the agreement with the property owner is that the structure can only be a silo.

Question (Citizen):

Is there a generator associated with this thing?

Answer (Applicant):

There may be a backup generator, but it will be hooked up to city power.

Question (Citizen):

Can we take a poll of how many against it or for it?

Answer (City):

Generally we don't but maybe we can visit that later.

Question (Citizen):

Which way will the antennas face?

**Applicant (Applicant):**

The antennas will face 3 directions and there will be 360 degree coverage.

**Question (Citizen):**

There haven't been any conclusive studies. How do you know it's safe?

**Answer (Applicant):**

Please give me your email it's not a brand new technology it's been around 30 years.

**Comment:**

I read in a sample group study of 2,500 children that the cancer rate is 5 % greater for those who lived around the tower.

**Comment (Applicant):**

I'm sure I can find a study that anything I want a result to be...

**Comment (City):**

The FCC ruling is that we can use zoning to say here's where we allow it and here's where we don't but we cannot prevent it all together.

**Question (Citizen):**

Can we view the slide of the location of the tower?

**Question (Applicant):**

On the property, or?

**Question (Citizen):**

Where is Turnberry and where is Mountain Vista?

**Question (Citizen):**

In what year is this picture taken?

**Comment:**

I don't see my house.

**Comment:**

I'm just wondering why you're using that picture is all.

**Answer (Applicant):**

It's at the head of this pin.

**Question (Citizen):**

With a 60ft tower how many different companies will it accommodate?

**Answer (Applicant):**

At least two it could be three it just depends.

**Question (Citizen):**

Would the tower ever go higher?

**Answer (Applicant):**

That's a hard question we don't have any intention of going higher if it's going to ruin the stealth appeal.

**Question (Citizen):**

What is the color of the silo and is it going to match the house?

**Answer (Applicant):**

The city determines it and the land owner has a strong weight.

**Comment:**

Right now it's a rural property but down the road there may be more development... I'm not sure a silo is the most appropriate structure.

**Comment (Applicant):**

Yeah I understand that issues, it's not platted or subdivided to be anything else...

**Comment:**

I want to address with Clay and the City of Fort Collins that I'm solidly in favor of this and I see this as a health issue and a safety issue and not be able to call.

**Comment:**

It's been a problem for years.

**Comment:**

Get a network extender.

**Comment:**

I'm the immediate neighbor and we love it in this area and we plan on living there forever and we have a good neighbor relationship with the neighbor and we were approached to put a tower on our property and were offered \$500-\$1000 a month for ourselves...this not an approved use, yes we know there is a school and houses behind it that doesn't concern us as much as the tower, it would be terrible for sightlines and the people and they will have a Right of Way to come and go as they need. They are practically on our property and we are not ok with that. I'm a health practitioner and I'm not worried that I'll get that but I believe that I will have environmental risk. ... We don't have a choice about this.

**Comment:**

The concern I have, the City is not able to take this into account the point is the perception of the public is that there may be health concerns study's from the journal show that people prefer not ...

**Comment:**

Property value may go down by 20% or \$100,000 how do you respond to that concern?

Comment (Applicant):

Our research shows there hasn't been a drop in property values with stealth towers, just maybe with lattice tower. It's just not going to have that effect on property value

Comment:

We need a show of hands.

Comment:

I have Verizon and I never have a dropped call.

Comment:

I drop a call all the time. I can't have a call for more than 10 minutes.

Question (Citizen):

Do you have a picture of what this will look like?

Answer (Applicant):

No, but the next public meeting I will.

Question (Citizen):

Why not?

Comment:

I know some radio station allow 50,000w of power.

Comment (Applicant):

I can't answer that question it varies and I'm not an RF engineer, radio stations cover a lot larger of an area so they tend to be higher powered.

Comment:

I can speak to that at ground level its half of .00025

Comment:

This is not a broadcast station so there will be less output.

Comment (Applicant):

Correct, this tower just takes in info and sends it out

Comment:

I assume the City is going to do a near and long range study on the radiation generated by wireless towers?

Comment (City):

The City doesn't have a role to play in the radiation study since an extensive study was done by the FCC as part of the Telecommunications Act.

Question (Citizen):

Where do we find that study?

Answer (City):

Wireless Telecommunications Act of 1997. It goes through all the issues.

Question (Citizen):

Would you have one in your back yard?

Answer (City):

I don't have a back yard.

Question (Citizen):

Why are you trying to put it into existing residential? You could go east and not have to worry about the aesthetic issue.

Answer (Applicant):

The elevation does go down to the east; it's much harder to get a tower built on something that hasn't been developed than has been developed.

Comment:

That's a good point, if you build it out to the east and there is nothing around. You're coming to an established area and you're trying to get a variance to allow this tower on this piece of land.

Comment (Applicant):

There is a limit to the search range.

Comment:

I'm a physicist in radio technology you have to have a grid with cell tower. There is a lot of controversy about the United States radio frequency standard that allows higher levels of radiation than that of other places in the world. The radiation exposure will vary depending on heights.

Question (Citizen):

What other tower and what other places have you asked to put one up in?

Question (Citizen):

What about the country club?

Question (Citizen):

So the contract has been signed with the property owner and this is a done deal?

Answer (Applicant):

Yes we have a lease

Comment (City):

Through the Addition of Permitted Use process staff and City Council will heavily weigh the feedback we get from the neighborhood meetings as it relates to neighborhood compatibility. We also have some different things like noise and traffic that staff and City Council will look at.

Question (Citizen):

They would change the zoning

Answer (City):

No just a variance.

Comment:

Put it by your house we have a direct view...

Comment:

I have a child who was diagnosed with cancer in August .... I care maybe you don't so this proposal really concerns me.

Comment:

I can understand safety issues and I totally empathize with the lady over there and I say do we want cell phones or not? You designate one location for each community, which doesn't work. The HOA's should all get together and discuss this issue holistically rather than everyone coming here to get something stuck down our throats.

Comment:

There are residential uses there and what I understand is the silo is going to be 60 ft. tall. You could build a 3 story barn and it wouldn't fit in, the way it's designed it would not fit into the neighborhood.

Question (Citizen):

Are cell towers permitted in an industrial zone?

Answer (City):

Yes.

Comment:

I'd imagine if you could put it there even taller how wide is it going to be, when you do a full pine tree it would look much better. No offense, but the silo looks like a huge phallus symbol.

Comment:

You know it's kind of hard to make it fit into a neighborhood if the tower will be that tall.

Comment (Applicant):

Unfortunately, we can't move too far away from the search range.

Question (Citizen):

They are zoned industrial less than a mile away. At the time Anheuser Bush owned the land but then InBev bought it there are a lot more for sale signs. When you said it would be surrounded by farm buildings are you talking about the existing farm buildings or are you talking about the equipment buildings?

Answer (Applicant):

In this case we are planning to build a fence

Question (Citizen):

How wide across are they?

Answer (Applicant):

15 feet



Question (Citizen):

Would you have to put information about a cell tower being located nearby in the sale of the home?

Comment:

It would be helpful if the transcript was reviewed for unanswered questions so that they can be answered.

Question (Citizen):

Someone talked about putting it where Anheuser Bush is. Why you couldn't have it on top of Anheuser bush?

Question (Citizen):

Why don't you put the antennas on top of the tall structures at the brewery?

Answer (Applicant):

It would be further away than needed.

Question (Citizen):

Have you talked to them?

Answer (Applicant):

We have.

Question (Citizen):

Has the City ever approved anything like this?

Answer (City):

No.

Question (Citizen):

You have mixed County and City residents here is this a done deal either way?

Answer (City):

If this is a non-starter the City would recommend finding a different site.

Comment:

How many are familiar with this property? It's a junk yard I'd hardly call it a farm, to me putting in a new silo is stupid.

Question (Citizen):

Do you want them to junk it up for you?

Question (Citizen):

We do need cell coverage we do have a website that is called turnberrycelltower.com and there is a lot of information of what the tower will look like. The concern with health is not so much with cancer and neurologic issues it's that we don't know what impact these towers have on our health. I can also turn my cell off and I can hardwire my house to turn it off. The question I have is there anyone checking on and regulating these towers?

**Answer (Applicant):**

The FCC.

**Comment:**

They don't have to register with the FCC if they are less than 250 feet tall.

**Answer (Applicant):**

Yeah, it is the FCC and they do measure the signal.

**Comment:**

The FCC doesn't regulate the tower itself but it does regulate the equipment to make sure that it doesn't cause harm.

**Question (Citizen):**

Do we have other locations at schools?

**Answer (Applicant):**

Yes often times they are at schools. It is proven that they are not dangerous

**Question (Citizen):**

I'm wondering if we have any others towers in the City?

**Comment:**

There is a tower on Mason and Oak by wells Fargo is there a cell tower there it's not very high.

**Answer (City):**

A lot of the tall buildings in the City have wireless towers.

**Comment:**

We need a variety of options, there are development options for this area... Before we can real support or oppose this we need more information. Is this location going to really make sense since this tower can only emit so much?

**Answer (City):**

Maple Hill is the only approved subdivision, we have some plans going through the development review process that could get approved. But then again that could change in six months. We take what the applicant presents us in these meetings. Our goal is to try to be a middle person in the conversation, I think the idea of taking a comprehensive look at this makes a lot of sense.

**Comment:**

I'm not as concerned , I mean I'm concerned about it but my biggest concern is property values, I mean when I did this 30 years ago we had 300' tall towers...

**Comment:**

This picture doesn't seem to be current ... the neighborhood that I live in hasn't been built in the picture you're showing.

**Answer (City):**

I don't know when the aerial was taken.

Comment:

I can address that. It's been over a year as the area to the east is completely filled with 1-2 story homes in Storybook.

Comment:

Very recently the country club was approached for a proposed tower but for whatever reason it didn't get built.

Question (Citizen):

Now do you review each new set of equipment when the cell phone company adds additional antennas or bands?

Answer (City):

Each time they want to attach a new antenna we review their new attachments.

Question (Citizen):

Could they turn up the power to the antenna?

Answer (Applicant):

I can't answer that, no one wants to be caught by the FCC.

Comment:

I know it does cause health issues around the farmland dairy cattle can give less milk and have more miscarriages.

Comment (Applicant):

You get cell frequency all around you.

Comment (Applicant):

I think on the internet you can find anything to say what you want it to say.

Comment:

I turned 95 yesterday clapping and if my husband were here he would give you a hard time since he worked on these sites for a number of years and was familiar with the health effects of radio frequencies.

Question (Citizen):

Before more people leave, I think it would be useful if we took a quick poll.

Question (Citizen):

I have a question as well, how many people think RF emissions are harmful?

Comment:

That is a subjective question.

Question (Citizen):

Ok, well I have another question. How many cell towers are there in the US? The last I had seen there were 100,000-200,000.

Comment:

There's been a lot of studies that have said RF emissions does not cause cancer.

Comment:

I agree with you on that there isn't conclusive evidence to suggest RF emissions cause cancer but the FCC when they look at health effects look at how it affects the body thermally, heat. Whereas the studies that challenge the FCC ruling are looking at biological effects. That's where the question is. The science is not settled. We've all seen rises in certain kinds of illnesses that didn't exist in the United States. We don't know that it's RF, we're just saying we want to know and that we're worried.

Answer (Applicant):

If there was a need there would be some kind of fix for it.

Question (Citizen):

Can we do a poll?

Question (Citizen):

How about a vote?

Answer (City):

It doesn't create a positive atmosphere

Answer (City):

We are here to discuss it not to vote

Question (Citizen):

From the Planning department's perspective, I hear the Mountain Vista Plan is being updated and it's my understanding that the school that was proposed in Mountain Vista is going to Wellington and Timnath. What will be the impact on the new Mountain Vista Plan on this proposal?

Answer (City):

Poudre School District is planning on putting the school there but they are not sure when.

Comment:

We are wasting our time if you don't a vote.

Comment:

I'm leaving if you don't take a poll.

Comment (City):

I'm not interested in fighting and the City is not interested in fighting for this

Comment:

This is typical City, I'm calling the City tomorrow and they better not vote for this.