



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Harash (Sonny) Segal
Chief Information Officer

MINUTES OF TFCG MEETING

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications Corporation

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TFCG) was held on April 2, 2014. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Marjorie Williams		DTS
Bernie Fitzgerald		DGS
Naeem Mia	(via phone)	OMB
Dave Niblock	(via phone)	DPS
Samantha Harris	(via phone)	MCPS
Martin Rookard	(via phone)	WSSC
Carlton Gilbert	(via phone)	M-NCPPC

STAFF

Bob Hunnicutt	(via phone)	CTC
Lee Afflerbach		CTC

OTHER ATTENDEES

Hillorie Morrison		SCE for Verizon Wireless
Ben Pellitier	(via phone)	NB&C for Verizon Wireless
Josh Sckahola	(via phone)	SCE for Verizon Wireless
Phil Stetler	(via phone)	Sitelink Wireless for AT&T

Action Item - Meeting Minutes

Motion: Martin Rookard moved the minutes be approved. Naeem Mia seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Consent Agenda

1. Verizon application to replace six panel antennas at the 160' level on a 226'-high lattice tower on Izaak Walton League property located at 18301 Waring Station Road in Germantown (201404-02). *Minor Modification.*

2. Verizon application to add three panel antennas at the 152' level on a 150'-high monopole on Montgomery Council, Knights of Columbus Building Corp. property located at 17001 Overhill Road in Derwood (201404-04). *Minor Modification.*
3. Verizon application to add three panel antennas at the 90' level on a 110'-high monopole on Silver Spring YMCA property located at 9800 Hastings Drive in Silver Spring (201404-05). *Minor Modification.*
4. Verizon application to replace six panel antennas at the 138' level on a 150'-high monopole on Bethesda Country Club property located at 7601 Bradley Boulevard in Bethesda (201404-06). *Minor Modification.*
5. Verizon application to attach twelve panel antennas at the 120' level on a 140'-high monopole on Shurgard Maryland Properties Inc. property located at 3351 Briggs Chaney Road in Silver Spring (201404-19). *Co-location.*
6. Verizon application to attach three panel antennas at the 60' level inside a church steeple atop an approximately 45'-high church on Hughes United Methodist Church property located at 10700 Georgia Avenue in Wheaton (201404-20). *Co-location.*
7. Verizon application to replace six panel antennas at the 185' level atop a 156'-high apartment building on Rock Creek Terrace LP property located at 12630 Veirs Mill Road in Rockville (201405-02). *Minor Modification.*

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the Consent Agenda items be approved. Martin Rookard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Regular Agenda

Action Item: AT&T application to construct a 101'-high monopole and attach twelve panel antennas at the 97' level on Sligo Baptist Church, Inc. property located at 1610 Dennis Avenue in Silver Spring (201403-15). *New. Conditioned on approval by the Board of Appeals for a special exception to permit the monopole in a residential zone, and on a design that does not meet the requirements to provide for co-location of at least two additional carriers facilities at the site. Additionally, we condition our recommendation on AT&T considering a tree disguise design for the monopole if there is community objection to the appearance of the monopole.*

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the plans show that the monopole does not meet the special exception requirements for accommodating at least two additional carriers. Consequently, the Tower Coordinator's recommendation is conditioned on the Board of Appeals approving a design, as they have authority to do, that accommodates fewer than three carriers. Lee Afflerbach added that based on his engineering review of the supporting engineering documentation and the coverage intentions for this site, a shorter monopole may not meet the coverage requirements.

Marjorie Williams remarked that the language as recommended by the Tower Coordinator is confusing and appears to indicate that the TFCG endorses a new tower designed to support at least three carriers' antennas and equipment on the ground.

Dave Niblock remarked that a primary role of the TFCG is to encourage new towers that are designed to present opportunities for future co-location of additional carriers' antennas to minimize the need for another new tower in the same area. For that reason, he does not support this application because it does not provide for additional antennas on the monopole and additional space on the ground for other carriers' equipment. Carlton Gilbert agreed.

Bernie Fitzgerald commented that there is a question about both the structural capacity and the height of the monopole in terms of its ability to support additional carriers. Lee Afflerbach added that elevations below the AT&T antennas as proposed may work to meet other carriers' needs, especially because of the deployment of 4G technology. He explained that deployment of 4G technology is resulting in antenna sites being placed closer to each other and at lower elevations because the coverage footprints for some of the 4G frequencies being used do not travel very far from the antennas.

Ms. Williams noted that the trees surrounding the site may result in the need for a higher structure to permit effective co-location and asked if other carriers planned to place facilities near this site. Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the trees were perhaps 70' high, leaving space for co-locators' antennas to clear the treetops. He also noted that, based on the carriers' annual plans, there are at least two other carriers that plan to site antennas within a mile of the church property.

Ms. Williams asked the applicant, Phil Stetler, if AT&T had considered a facility designed to accommodate additional carriers. Mr. Stetler replied that he recalled a discussion with the leasing agent that AT&T did have that intent, however, the plans submitted do not reflect the potential for other carriers placing facilities at this location. Mr. Hunnicutt added that as part of the Tower Coordinator's review of the application he asked about the space for equipment and that Mr. Stetler had responded that the smaller size is all that AT&T was seeking. Mr. Stetler agreed to revisit that aspect of this application with AT&T and report back to the TFCG.

Motion: Carlton Gilbert moved to table the application until AT&T addressed the issue of additional co-location. Bernie Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: AT&T application to install an emergency power generator on the roof or on the ground at three buildings. See attached list of property owners and addresses (201404-11). *Minor Modification. Conditioned on the generators being screened and designed to meet the requirements of 59-A-6.14 of the Zoning Ordinance.*

Mr. Hunnicutt summarized the application, noting that the generators proposed to be placed on residential property were required to be screened and that the Tower Coordinator's recommendation was conditioned accordingly.

Motion: Bernie Fitzgerald moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Naeem Mia seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: AT&T application to install an emergency power generator at the base of two monopoles. See attached list of property owners and addresses (201404-12). *Minor Modification. Conditioned on the generators being screened and designed to meet the requirements of 59-A-6.14 of the Zoning Ordinance.*

Mr. Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the generators proposed to be placed on residential property were required to be screened and that the Tower Coordinator's recommendation was conditioned accordingly.

Motion: Bernie Fitzgerald moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Naeem Mia seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the TFCG will be held on May 7th in Room #225 of the COB.