



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 (CTC)

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TFCG) was held on May 7, 2014. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Marjorie Williams		DTS
Bernie Fitzgerald		DGS
Peter Geiling		MCPS
Dave Niblock	(via phone)	DPS
Carlton Gilbert	(via phone)	M-NCPPC
Martin Rookard	(via phone)	WSSC
Joan Cole	(via phone)	DTS

STAFF

Nancy Rodriguez		CTC
Bob Hunnicutt	(via phone)	CTC

OTHER ATTENDEES

Randy Lusk		Smartlink LLC
Justin Barlow		Smartlink LLC
Shari Saslow		SCE, Inc
Benjamin Pellitier	(via phone)	NB&C, LLC
Andrew Senker	(via phone)	NB&C, LLC
Michael Bortz	(via phone)	NB&C, LLC
Joshua Schakola	(via phone)	SCE, Inc
Cathy Borton	(via phone)	MGD Law
Justin Blanset	(via phone)	NB&C, LLC
Harold Bernadzikowski	(via phone)	NB&C, LLC

Action Item – Meeting Minutes

Motion: Carlton Gilbert moved the minutes be approved. Bernie Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it was approved with Peter Geiling abstaining.

Action Item: Consent Agenda

Discussion: Marjorie Williams noted that one application (201404-01) had been added to the Agenda. Bob Hunnicutt explained that because there had been an error on the application which had been corrected but was overlooked by the Tower Coordinator when the correction was filed, in this case only, on approval by Ms. Williams, the application had been added at the last minute.

1. Verizon Wireless application to add three 48" panel antennas at the 114' level on a 110' monopole on Patricia V. Rinaldi property located at 15700 Georgia Avenue in Olney (201404-01). *Minor Modification.*
2. Verizon Wireless application to replace six panel antennas at the 184' level on a 180'-high monopole on SMS Partnership property located at 22210 Dickerson Road in Dickerson (201404-03). *Minor Modification.*
3. Sirius XM application to replace one antenna with two panel antennas and one dish antenna on an apartment building on Grosvenor House Association property located at 10101 Grosvenor Place in Rockville (201404-13). *Minor Modification.*
4. Sirius XM application to replace one antenna and add two panel antennas and one dish antenna on an office building on Boston Properties property located at 6903 Rockledge Drive in Bethesda (201404-14). *Minor Modification.*
5. Verizon Wireless application to attach twelve panel antennas at the 89' level on an 85'-high apartment building on Londonberry Housing property located at 17060 King James Way in Gaithersburg (201404-18). *Co-location.*
6. Verizon Wireless application to replace six panel antennas at the 119' level on a 125'-high water tank on WSSC property located at 21701 Ridge Road in Germantown (201405-01). *Minor Modification.*
7. Verizon Wireless application to replace six panel antennas at the 130' level on a 125'-high water tank on WSSC property located at 8505 Aqueduct Road in Potomac (201405-03). *Minor Modification.*
8. Verizon Wireless application to attach twelve panel antennas at the 53' level on a 40'-high office building on Key West III, LP property located at 9420 Key West Avenue in Rockville (201405-09). *Co-location.*

9. Sprint application to add three panel antennas to each of two monopoles. See attached list of property owners and addresses (201405-08). *Minor Modification.*
10. AT&T application to attach twelve panel antennas at the 121' level on a 126'-high PEPCO transmission tower on PEPCO property located at Horse Center Road in North Potomac (201405-13). *Co-location.*

Motion: Martin Rookard moved the Consent Agenda item be recommended. Joan Cole 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 AT&T considering a tree disguise design for the monopole if there is community objection to the appearance of the monopole.*

Bob Hunnicutt commented that the committee voted to table this application last month pending the applicant verifying with AT&T whether the monopole and equipment area would be designed to accommodate at least two additional carriers and if they would provide revised plans reflecting same. The applicant has now provided plans that reflect that the monopole and space on the ground can accommodate facilities from two additional carriers. With that concern resolved, the Tower Coordinator's recommendation remains the same and is placed on the agenda again for reconsideration.

Bernie Fitzgerald stated that he believed the revised plans address the TFCG's concern that the monopole and ground space can accommodate co-location, a main interest of the TFCG.

Motion: David Niblock moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Martin Rookard seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

Action Item: AT&T application to attach twelve panel antennas at the 122' level on a 111'-high monopole on Patricia Rinaldi property located at 15700 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring (201404-16). *Co-location. Conditioned on approval by the Board of Appeals for any modifications that may be needed to the special exception.*

Mr. Hunnicutt summarized the application, noting that based on past applications and a structural analysis provided with the application for Verizon Wireless to add antennas (item #1 on the Consent Agenda), this monopole is heavily loaded and will require structural modification to support the proposed extension to the monopole.

Mr. Hunnicutt stated that AT&T proposes to add a 9' extension to the top of the monopole to accommodate their antennas. With the extension, the monopole, originally approved by Special Exception to a total height of 120', will exceed that limit. The increased height will also result in the monopole no longer meeting setback requirements.

Randall Lusk, representing AT&T, provided a copy of a past letter from the Board of Appeals documenting that they had waived a review of the special exception to extend the monopole to a height of 129.8' high from a past AT&T request. Mr. Hunnicutt commented that he was not aware of that information but, regardless, it did not address the setback issue. The Group agreed.

Motion: Bernie Fitzgerald moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Martin Rookard seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

Action Item: AT&T application to construct a 150'-high monopole and attach twelve panel antennas at the 150' level on Tragero Properties LLC property located at 2610 Sherview Lane in Silver Spring (201405-04). *New. Conditioned on approval of a special exception by the Board of Appeals*

Mr. Hunnicutt stated that this is an application to construct a new 150'-high monopole in a residential area within an environmental conservation area. He stated that it appears from the RF maps that the applicant needs antennas at the 150' level to best meet the stated coverage objective. He added that there have been several attempts to place facilities in this protected area, none of which have been successful. Mr. Hunnicutt noted that he understands from AT&T that they will also be filing an application to construct another new monopole at a location where others have attempted but failed to do so—at the nursery along Briggs Chaney Road at Good Hope Road.

He added that antennas at lower elevations provide coverage improvements to a generally equivalent, but different size area in the vicinity of the site. The terrain where the monopole will be located has a 100' drop in elevation in ground level from the north and northwest of the site.

Mr. Hunnicutt added that with past applications in this environmental conservation area, there have been community objections to a monopole in this vicinity. A shorter facility could perhaps mitigate those concerns for this site. Mr. Hunnicutt also commented that as part of the Tower Coordinator review of the application, the applicant was asked if they considered disguising the monopole. The applicant replied that they had neither considered a disguise nor had the landlord requested such a design. He added that, according to M-NCPPC staff, there had been complaints about the appearance of a monopole disguised as a tree on other M-NCPPC property during a recent review of another monopole proposed to be constructed west of this location along the ICC.

Margie Williams asked if constructing a shorter monopole 130' high could still provide space for future co-locations by other carriers. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that that would depend on other

carriers' needs but typically, based on past applications for co-locations on new monopoles, it may not be a problem.

Motion: Bernie Fitzgerald moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Martin Rookard seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

Discussion Item: Revised plans for TFCG #201403-18 American Tower @ Knights of Columbus, 17001 Overhill Road, Derwood.

Mr. Hunnicutt stated that this application has been previously reviewed and recommended by the TFCG but now the applicant reports that the proposed expansion to the equipment area will need be on the opposite side of the existing equipment area than what was on the plans the TFCG reviewed. He added that changes to an application that has already recommended by the TFCG—as long as the work has not been done, and the changes are not significant—are simply reported by the Tower Coordinator to the Group for discussion. Accordingly, Mr. Hunnicutt noted that these changes would not change the Tower Coordinator's Recommendation for that application. There were no questions or concerns expressed by the Group.

Discussion Item: Revised plans for TFCG #201403-06 Verizon Wireless @ Bethesda Row, 7255 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda.

In this case, based on the landlord's request, the antennas that had been proposed to be screened from view atop the building will now be attached to the walls of the penthouse. Mr. Hunnicutt said that this modification would not change the Tower Coordinator's recommendation for this application either. There were no questions or concerns expressed by the Group.

Discussion Item: Proposed Zoning Text Amendment to permit minor antennas by right. Ms. Williams referred the Group to the proposed Zoning Text Amendment attached to the Agenda and asked if the members had had a chance to review the new provision exempting a "minor antenna" from zoning.

Carlton Gilbert commented that the change will facilitate more expedient deployment of new technology and will permit so-called minor antennas to be placed at any height and in any zone as long as they are at least 60' from a residential dwelling.

Bernie Fitzgerald asked if the amendment has been approved by the Council. Mr. Gilbert confirmed that it has only been submitted for comment and that a hearing will be scheduled before Council action will be taken.

Ms. Williams commented that this amendment would be to the recently approved overall zoning changes to take effect this fall. She remarked that those changes appear to contain changes to some of the zoning terminology (for example, a special exception would be termed a "conditional use").

Mr. Hunnicutt added that he thought the TFCG had already reviewed co-location applications to place those kinds of antennas in the County. He noted that Prince George's County Code exempts such antennas from their TFCG-equivalent review process but still requires compliance with zoning for antennas.

Cathy Borton stated that the goal of the minor antennas is to target coverage improvements at locations where there is a high demand for capacity. She added that those are very low power, and that Verizon Wireless has photos of such an antenna installation in Fells Point in Baltimore that she could provide to the TFCG.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked for a manufacturer's spec sheet in addition to the photo simulations. Mr. Hunnicutt stated that he can provide spec sheets from applications reviewed in Prince George's County.

Mr. Gilbert will provide the date of when they need the comments back from the committee regarding the new zoning amendment. Public hearing date has not been set yet so there is still some time.

Ms. Williams asked the members to review the proposed amendment and let her know if they had any comments for the TFCG to submit to the Council regarding this provision for minor antennas.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the TFCG will be held on June 4th in Room #225 of the COB.