



CITY OF REDMOND
Community Development Department

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REDMOND URBAN AREA PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Council Chambers, 777 SW Deschutes Avenue, Redmond, Oregon

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Eric Porter, Vice Chair Will Van Vactor, Tory Allman, Stan Clark, Katie McDonald (*absent*: Bob Bleile; 1 position vacant)

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON: Margie Dawson

CITY STAFF: James Lewis, *Long-Range Planner*; Cameron Prow, *TYPE-Write II*

VISITORS: Libbi Albright, Jim Fenton, Delbert Latham, Kyle Sager, Frank Smith, Linda Swearingen; Trish Pinkerton, *Redmond Spokesman*

(scribe CP's note: The minutes were created from an audio record and notes taken at the meeting. The three digits after the motion title shows the number of members voting in favor/against/abstaining.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Porter opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. with a quorum present.

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS (None)

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Wireless/Broadcast Communication Facilities

Mr. Lewis presented his staff report on Redmond Development Code Text Amendment Sections 8.0400-8.0450 (TA-11-6), discussing goals, review process, location/development standards, approval criteria, and maintenance/abandoned facilities. The proposed amendment responds to community concerns about siting cell tower facilities, updates the code to conform with current legal requirements, and consolidates provisions into one section for clarity and ease of use.

Chair Porter opened the hearing to public testimony at 7:28 p.m.

- * Linda Swearingen (proponent) thanked Commissioners and staff for their proactive response to community concerns about *location, development standards, aesthetic compatibility, and maintenance*. The 500-foot notice area should be doubled as the current wireless facility impacts people outside that area. Camouflaging these facilities requires more than green paint. Driveways for these facilities should be paved like those of neighborhood homes to reduce dust and weeds.
- * Frank Smith submitted suggested code changes. Verizon is a public nuisance. His concerns included *consistency with federal telecommunications legislation, zoning* (allowing solely commercial use on a residential lot), *subjective language* (meaning of "minimize"), *visual impact, lighting pollution, citizens right to complain, and enforcement*.

- * Delbert Latham said he used to work for Verizon as a construction supervisor. He said that the enclosure is ugly and could have been put underground. His primary concerns were *visual impact, aesthetics, and height*. Big business has more impact on laws than private citizens.
- * Libbi Albright (proponent) said that the Planning Commission's decision will affect many people for many years. Verizon has not been a good neighbor. Collocation should be investigated further before being adopted. Her primary concerns were protecting homeowners from *urban blight, property value depreciation, adverse visual impacts, and code enforcement*. Are community volunteers needed to monitor landscape maintenance?
- * Delbert Latham asked how the City would enforce collocation of facilities if the provider says that the enclosure is full. Is AT&T cell service now available in Redmond?
- * Jim Fenton said that cell towers should not be sited in residential neighborhoods, no matter how much lease revenue the City gets. Cell phone signals, like power lines, pose a health risk to the human body. Collocation intensifies energy output.
- * Kyle Sager said that the current Verizon site is a failure. His primary concerns were aesthetics, landscape maintenance, tower height, driveway paving, and preventing commercial uses in residential areas.
- * Frank Smith requested clarification as to whether the "collocation" definition applies to cell towers or sites and a definition for "enclosure." Other concerns included consistency between City and County codes in addressing this issue, aesthetics, and maintenance.
- * Jim Fenton recommended that the City develop and maintain two lists (paper and computer) for (1) radio frequency structures, sites, and related information and (2) people interested in this subject who will be notified whether or not they live within 500 feet.

Chair Porter closed the hearing to oral testimony at 8:44 p.m., reserving the right to re-open that part of the hearing, and thanked those who testified.

Commissioner discussion covered *issues raised during testimony, reasonable maintenance hours (7 a.m.-7 p.m., except in emergencies), underground facilities (especially in residential areas), preventing recurrence of the issues/conflicts caused by the Verizon facility, collocation vs. multiple sites, aesthetic compatibility, and enclosure stealth*.

By consensus, Commissioners agreed to continue the public hearing to September 20, 2011.

Mr. Lewis reiterated the purpose of the proposed code amendments as outlined in his staff report. Most of the testimony received tonight was about the old code under which the Verizon facility was installed. He will add Commissioners' request for restricted maintenance hours (7 a.m.-7 p.m. except in emergencies) to the code changes, research the issues raised during testimony, and get a legal opinion on consistency of the proposed code changes with federal law.

IV. WORK SESSION

A. Redmond Development Commission – Strategic Plan Correspondence

Postponed to September 20, 2011, due to lack of time.

Chair Porter said he spoke with RDC Chair Bill Braly on September 6, 2011. During their phone conversation, they discussed the most efficient way to work together for the good of the city.

Chair Porter volunteered to serve as liaison between RDC and the Planning Commission but was unsure if his schedule would permit attendance at all RDC meetings.

Commissioner Clark expressed concern about conflicts between RDC goals/strategies and Planning Commission recommendations on land uses for the industrial area east of the railroad track and south of Antler Avenue.

V. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS (None)

VI. STAFF COMMENTS (None)

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (None)

VIII. ADJOURN

With no further business, Chair Porter adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

APPROVED by the Redmond Urban Area Planning Commission and SIGNED by me this 4th day of October, 2011.

ATTEST:

/s/ Eric Porter
Eric Porter, Chair