

# **City of Gainesville**

*City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, June 6, 2011**

**3:00 PM**

**City Hall, Room 16**

## **Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee**

*Commissioner Scherwin Henry, Chair  
Commissioner Todd Chase, Member  
Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Member*

*Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Equal Opportunity Department at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.*

## CALL TO ORDER

*The Recreation, Cultural Affairs & Public Works Committee was called to order at 3:02 PM.*

Present: Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Scherwin Henry and Todd Chase

## ROLL CALL

*Chair Henry introduced himself, welcomed everyone in attendance, and went around the room giving each person an opportunity to introduce themselves.*

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

*Commissioner Mastrodicasa motioned and Commissioner Chase seconded to adopt the agenda as presented.*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 110037.

#### **Approval of the May 9, 2011 Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes (B)**

*Commissioner Mastrodicasa motioned and Commissioner Chase seconded to approve the minutes as circulated.*

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee approve the May 9, 2011, minutes as submitted.*

#### **Approved as Recommended**

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## DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

*These minutes are a summary of the meeting, not a verbatim discussion. A copy of the meeting recording will be provided upon request.*

### 090110.

#### **Proposed Cell Tower at Albert “Ray” Massey Park (B)**

**This item involves an update to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee regarding potential placement of a Cell Tower at Albert “Ray” Massey Park.**

*Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers opened the discussion with a brief background and outline for the speakers. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Steve Phillips provided additional information and history on the proposed cell tower; and introduced TowerCom Representative Dave Boeff who provided an overview of the*

*proposal.*

*Dave Boeff explained that the original proposal was submitted in 2003, followed by a resubmission in 2007, and 2009. The proposal remains the same with a 170 foot unipole.*

*Chair Henry commented on AT&T and T-Mobile's possible merger, and inquired on the space needed on the cell tower should the merger occur. Mr. Boeff stated that the merger was still uncertain and should it occur the FCC would not allow any company to hold a monopoly within the market place; therefore, a portion of the spectrum would need to be discarded/sold to another carrier.*

*Mr. Boeff continued his presentation with a discussion on the proposed site for the cell tower, just north of the swimming complex. A photo simulation was completed displaying the tower in three colors: white, brown, and green. Concern still lies with the topography of Westside Park with trees ranging from 6 feet to 80 feet, a topographic dropping of 60-70 feet. Westside Park is on the carriers top five list of difficult sites. TowerCom would like to proceed with obtaining approval from the committee to move forward to the Commission. Upon approval TowerCom will make all necessary measures and revisions to make the project a reality; however, if the Committee decides against continuation of this project then Tower Com will move forward to an alternative location; such as, the Zion Lutheran Church site.*

*Chair Henry inquired on height of the cell tower and if the 170 foot height would be lowered from the original proposal. Mr. Boeff confirmed that it could be a possibility and something he would be willing to revisit; however, when the project was first created it was with the assumption that there would be one ten foot section per carrier. AT&T has now shown interest in purchasing two 10 foot sections. Therefore, even if there is a merger with T-Mobile, the 170 foot cell tower could be filled.*

*Chair Henry requested further explanation on the rent schedule and the predicted annual revenue of \$100,000, located in the TowerCom proposal. Mr. Boeff explained the City would receive a monthly base rent of \$1,500 , once an anchor tenant was obtained, that would escalate 3% annually. In conjunction the City would receive \$1,100 monthly per broadband carrier, excluding the anchor tenant. TowerCom cannot guarantee total annual revenue because they cannot guarantee the total number of carriers that would be obtained. A prediction cannot be made on the speed in which a carrier will collocate onto the tower.*

*Chair Henry responded that as a City Commissioner the revenue would be of consequence in his decision to place a cell tower at Westside Park. The cell tower is needed in that location but there is hesitancy due to the history from the unfinished tower on Southwest 37th.*

*Chair Henry asked on TowerCom's experience, on average, of the intervals on adding carriers to the tower. Mr. Boeff responded that it was approximately five carriers in five to six years.*

*Commissioner Chase inquired on the footprint of the cell tower as well as whether the*

*City and TowerCom would be sharing revenue with new technologies, leases, etc. Mr. Boeff confirmed that the revenue would be shared and the cell tower would have all necessary technologies built internally eliminating the need to have anything displayed on the external structure of the tower. The tower would encompass a maximum of 100 X 100 square feet footprint. TowerCom is also receptive to relocating the tower to another site within the Westside Park if it would assist in having the project approved.*

*AGM for Strategic Planning Ed Regan shared his insight on the current technologies available for this project. TowerCom's proposed technology is the least costly at covering the most area, and at a certain price point the carrier loses interest. There are other alternatives available; however, the options really lie in the interest of the carrier's willingness to support the cost.*

*Commissioner Mastrodicasa expressed her support for the placement of a cell tower within Westside Park. Commissioner Chase concurred with Commissioner Mastrodicasa and stated that the tower should be placed in a site within the Westside Park which would cause the least objections.*

*Commissioner Bottcher advised that opposing citizens are opposed to the cell tower due to aesthetics and health concerns. Her decision to support the cell tower would be due to the improvement on public safety that filling the cell phone gap could make on the community. Interest would be towards the system which would be the most reliable.*

*Senior Assistant City Attorney Nicole Shalley clarified that the current discussion was as the property owner and not as a zoning regulator.*

*The Chair wrapped up and concluded that in preparation for the next meeting staff would: 1) Revisit the financial proposal and terms; 2) ensure the location of the tower should be aesthetically pleasing and the least obtrusive; and 3) pursue the path of applying a mural to the structure which will surround the tower.*

*MOTION: By consensus the Committee agreed to approve recommending the construction of the cell tower in Westside Park to the full City Commission.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee: 1) hear an update on options related to a proposed cell tower at Albert "Ray" Massey Park; and 2) provide staff with direction on this proposal.*

**Discussed**

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**NEXT MEETING DATE - July 11, 2011 @ 1:00 PM**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.*