

Planning Commission Meeting
October 30, 2014
RZ 2014-PR-006

2232-H13-16 – NEWPATH NETWORKS, LLC

After Close of the Public Hearing

Chairman Murphy: Public hearing is closed; Mr. de la Fe.

Commissioner de la Fe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we heard from our speaker, the main issue with this application, as is the case with almost every application with a telecommunications facility, is how do we try to minimize the visual impact. This has been going on with this case almost two years now, perhaps even longer than that when we consider that the first part of the - the original DAS was approved way back in 2007. I sympathize with Mr. Lozier but I believe that - and it is my understanding that Commissioner Lawrence also agrees with this - that we have gone as far as we can in mitigation of the visual impact. And there will always visual impacts with these things, whether they look like a tree or they look like something else, or they're on top of a pole. Much of the problem with these things is that they're replacing poles that were installed quite a while back when the requirements were lower, you know, so the poles were 35 feet. Some of them I've seen as low as 30 and 25 in parts of the county, so any replacement pole is going to be higher. I believe that staff and the applicants have done as good a job as possible in reducing the height of these poles - even if reducing the height of two poles to add a third pole, but given that I believe that we are ready to move. Mr. Chairman, I CONCUR WITH STAFF'S CONCLUSION THAT THE PROPOSAL BY NEWPATH NETWORKS TO EXPAND AN EXISTING DISTRIBUTED ANTENNA SYSTEM BY COLLOCATING THREE NEW ANTENNA NODES ON EXISTING UTILITY POLES, LOCATED ALONG VALE ROAD AND OAK VALLEY DRIVE, SATISFY THE CRITERIA OF LOCATION, CHARACTER, AND EXTENT AS SPECIFIED IN *VIRGINIA CODE* SECTION 15.2-2232, AS AMENDED. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION FIND THE SUBJECT APPLICATION 2232-H13-16, AS AMENDED, SUBSTANTIALLY IN ACCORD WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

Commissioner Hart and Litzenberger: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Mr. Hart and Mr. Ulfelder [*sic*]. Is there a discussion of the motion? Oh, Mr. Litzenberger, I'm sorry. All those in favor of the motion to approve 2232-H13-16, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries.

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(The motion carried by a vote of 9-0. Commissioner Sargeant recused himself from the public hearing. Commissioners Flanagan and Lawrence were absent from the meeting.)

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