

Planning Commission Meeting
March 10, 2011
Verbatim Excerpt

2232-S09-26 and SEA 99-S-012-03 – THE COUNTRY CLUB OF FAIRFAX, INC. AND
T-MOBILE NORTHEAST LLC

After the Close of the Public Hearing

Vice Chairman Alcorn: Close the public hearing; recognize Commissioner Murphy.

Commissioner Murphy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I want to thank everyone who is still here for coming out tonight and testifying and sending us the e-mails. I have the bound volume edition of the e-mails that we've received. I also want to thank Ms. Bader who handled the Special Exception application and Mr. Bell for his efforts on the 2232. I also want to thank Toni Denson of our staff who did a tremendous job responding to all these questions on the notifications from the County. And as you - - as I said at the outset - - excuse me - - all the notifications were done legally and correctly according to the Zoning Ordinance. And particularly I'd like to thank Marlae Schnare who does the land-use operations for Supervisor Herrity. She's done, as I said, yeoman's duty in keeping the citizens informed and answering all the questions and channeling all the e-mails, and there have been many, many e-mails to the right people, either the applicant or Fairfax County or the Planning Commission Office, to answer all the questions. These applications are not easy. What one may consider to be a "slam dunk" turns into be a controversial application. And I personally feel, and I think the Commission - - my fellow Commissioners will agree, that right now Fairfax County is at a technological crossroads because everyone wants these devices. Everybody wants iPods, iPads. You can't go into a Starbucks now unless they have Wi-Fi. We have them in our ears, on our belts, in our pockets, in front of our mouths, and up to our ears, but no one wants a tower. No one wants a facility that makes these technological advances work. We're running out of bandwidth. We need to support the infrastructure of the County. Whether this is the right spot for this monopole, film at 11. I have to go home and analyze everything everybody said tonight and I'm going to defer decision. But I want you to know that no decision is made here or at the Board of Supervisors that's an easy decision that expedites the process just to put up a tower or a monopole or a monopine or whatever. A lot of thought goes into it because we have to take into consideration a lot of facts. But quite frankly, to make a motion and to make a decision on what's before us tonight, it is a one application for a monopole tree pole on the property of Fairfax Golf and Country Club. We have to go by the rules and regulations of the State when we look at the 2232 and judge it according to three criteria and three criteria only: character, location, and extent. The Special Exception has been analyzed by the staff. We have to make a judgment as to whether or not we agree with the staff's recommendation to recommend approval of this application to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. And we will look at the Special Exception criteria, the Zoning Ordinance, and the Comprehensive Plan. Those are the basics we have to go by. Your testimony has given me an indication, and the members of this Commission, of the other aspects we should be looking at, visual effects, and that sort of thing. And I said before and I'll say it again, we cannot deny an application on the health issues. That is part of the law that was amended in 1996, the Federal Communications Act signed by President Clinton. So with that said, Mr. Chairman, I would MOVE the Planning Commission --

Vice Chairman Alcorn: Do you want the numbers?

Commissioner Murphy: Yes. THE PLANNING COMMISSION DEFER DECISION ONLY ON 2232-S09-26 AND SEA 99-S-012-03 TO A DATE CERTAIN OF MARCH 23RD, WITH THE RECORD REMAINING OPEN FOR WRITTEN COMMENT.

Commissioner Lawrence: Second.

Vice Chairman Alcorn: Seconded by Commissioner Lawrence. Any discussion on that motion? All those in favor of deferring decision on combined applications, SEA 99-S-012-03 and 2232-S09-26, to a date certain of March 23rd, 2011, with the record remaining open for comment, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Vice Chairman Alcorn: All opposed? That motion carries.

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(The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Hart recusing himself from the public hearing and vote; Commissioners Donahue, Hall, and Harsel absent from the meeting.)

KAD