

Planning Commission Meeting
June 28, 2012
Verbatim Excerpt

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROPOSED POLICY
PLAN AMENDMENT FOR MOBILE AND LAND-BASED TELECOMMUNICATION
SERVICES

During Commission Matters

Commissioner Murphy: Mr. Chairman?

Vice Chairman Alcorn: Yes, Mr. Murphy.

Commissioner Murphy: Yes, the Planning Commission's Telecommunications Committee has been working with staff and others since September 2010 to address issues concerning the visual impact of telecommunication structures in residential areas, new technology, and improving the 2232 review process relating to the review process – relating to the installation of telecommunications facilities in Fairfax County. The attachment that was mailed to you last week and provided by hard copy tonight and there are a couple of changes – very minor changes. One is editorial under Objective 44 and there were other clarifications with the placement of the text on the diagrams at the back of the Plan Amendment. It was approved by the Committee on Thursday, June 14, 2012 and included in the change to the Policy Plan, as outlined in my memorandum. It was unanimously approved by the Telecommunications Committee so, therefore, I – Mr. Chairman, I MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION ENDORSE THESE TELECOMMUNICATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE POLICY PLAN AMENDMENT AND REQUEST THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZE SUCH TEXT FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AND BOARD.

Commissioners Flanagan and Hart: Second.

Vice Chairman Alcorn: Seconded by Commissioners Flanagan and –

Commissioner Murphy: Hart.

Vice Chairman Alcorn: Hart. Any discussion on that motion? All those in favor of the motion as articulated by Commissioner Murphy, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Vice Chairman Alcorn: All opposed? That motion carries.

Commissioner Murphy: Thank you very much. I just want to add a couple things – a couple comments at the end here. I think we all realize – those of us on the Committee and those members of the Commission and members of industry and the staff who participated in this – that no matter what we do in amending the Policy Plan, we obviously begin another step towards

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obsolescence as far as telecommunications are concerned because the field is moving quite rapidly, as is the technology and all the other things that go into making telecommunications a reality in Fairfax County – something we really need. And that was brought up by the EDA, saying that if we're going to attract industry to Fairfax County, we got to have a pretty good telecommunications network system. That being the case, I think we and the staff have the responsibility of monitoring what we're doing here tonight. And hopefully when we get to that point where it comes before the Planning Commission or the Board for public hearing, we'll get some good input from this. We did have members of the industry participate in our discussion and I think that's a valuable tool. We mentioned earlier, and it was brought up again at the last meeting by Commissioner Lawrence, that it would be beneficial for the Commission and the staff and industry to get together again for a seminar. We had one a couple years ago – a get-together for a seminar probably – I'd like to plan for the fall where can sit down on a Saturday with members of industry and the staff and go through some of the impending changes that are going to be forthcoming and may dramatically affect again the Policy Plan regarding Telecommunications. I think we're moving towards a transition now between G4 and G5 and if we make that leap, then other things are going to change and the horizon is not going to be as it is defined in this Plan Amendment. But for the moment, this is golden I think. And we're ready to have a public hearing on it.

Vice Chairman Alcorn: Yes, Mr. Murphy, on that note, in my day job, I represent a different part of the industry that actually are the consumer devices that are used that, frankly, drive a lot of the need for these things. And I know from – from, you know, reading things about the industry and hearing from those folks, the demand for mobile broadband is just incredible. You know it's – it's, you know with the – with the new devices coming out and the consumer demand to do video streaming on the fly. It's – it's really, you know –it's going to be –

Commissioner Murphy: Scary.

Vice Chairman Alcorn: Yes, it is. It is. And hopefully the technology on these things can keep up.

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(The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Sargeant having recused himself.)

JLC