

Planning Commission Meeting
December 2, 2009
Verbatim Excerpt

2232-V09-10 – T-MOBILE NORTHEAST LLC

Decision Only During Commission Matters
(Public Hearing on November 18, 2009)

Commissioner Flanagan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have come to the conclusion that it is impossible in the Mount Vernon District, north of Fort Belvoir, to find a monopole site that isn't near homes. Just impossible. Instead, the challenge is finding monopole sites with the least nearby homes. Our parks provide the best answer because they make it possible to hide monopoles better than any other sites, as recommended by County Land Use Policy Objectives 42 and 43. The George Washington Recreation Center Park is an outstanding example of how we can hide monopoles, you know, in a very dense population area with many homes quite close to each other. Even, however, this park even has limitations since half of its 17 acres are mature forest while -- with limited road access. The park, in addition, is divided by headwaters stream of the Dogue Creek Resource Protection Area. So, that takes a substantial amount of land out of consideration as in my -- as a site for not only the -- a treepole, but also just park facilities itself. The only open areas outside the RPA are completely occupied now by a soccer field, baseball field, indoor swimming pool, tennis courts, parking lot, and a short entry road. I, therefore, agree with the staff's analysis and conclusion to support the application found on pages 5, 6, and 7 of the staff report. I also agree that the oral and written report of T-Mobile that the only alternate -- alternative site available would interfere with the planned expansion of the Recreation Center, encroach on the Resource Protection Area, be on the edge of the forest instead of within the forest, require cutting down many healthy trees, be a few feet from an elementary school, and more visible to one resident, in particular, who already objects to its visibility. Since application 2232-V09-10 fully complies with the objectives of 42 and 42 in the Comprehensive Plan Policies for Mobile and Land Based Telecommunication Services, I would -- and has been approved by the Mount Vernon Land Use Committee, Mount Vernon Council, and all the civic associations surrounding the proposed treepole, I concur with the staff's conclusion that the proposed T-Mobile Northeast LLC, to construct a treepole telecommunications facility at the George Washington Recreation Center, located at 8426 Old Mount Vernon Road, satisfies the criteria of location, character, and extent as specified in the *VA Code* Section 15.2-2232, as amended. I've also read all of the correspondence that the Commission has received on this matter and the -- since the public hearing, none of which raised new issues other than those dealt with during the public hearing.

Chairman Murphy: Is there a second to the motion?

Commissioner Flanagan: So, therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Planning Commission find the subject application --

Chairman Murphy: You just did it?

Commissioner Flanagan: What?

Chairman Murphy: I thought you just did it. Go ahead, go ahead.

Commissioner Flanagan: No, that was -- I concur.

Chairman Murphy: Okay.

Commissioner Flanagan: Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION FIND THAT THE SUBJECT APPLICATION, 2232-V09-10, AS AMENDED, SUBSTANTIALLY IS IN ACCORD WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

Commissioner Litzenberger: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Mr. Litzenberger. Is there a discussion of the motion? All those in favor of the motion to approve 2232-V09-10, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Motion carries

Commissioner de la Fe: Abstain. Absent from the public hearing.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries. One abstention. Thank you very much. Thank you, staff.

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(The motion carried by a vote of 9-0-1 with Commissioner de la Fe abstaining; Commissioners Harsel and Lusk absent from the meeting.)

KAD