

**MINUTES OF MEETING
LADUE CELLULAR SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF LADUE, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021, 4:00 P.M.**

DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ORDERED BY ST. LOUIS COUNTY ON PUBLIC GATHERINGS DUE TO COVID-19, THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BY VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

Chairman Hiemenz called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. The following members were present:

Chairman Charlie Hiemenz
Anita Chimento
Larry Reed
Eloise Schmitz
Mike Rupinski
Chip Wiese

Also present were Andrea Sukanek, City Planner; Anne Lamitola, Director of Public Works and Nancy Spewak, Mayor

Approval of the December 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2020 meeting. Mr. Wiese seconded the motion. All those present were in favor.

Presentation by AT&T Mobility Director of Radio Access Network for the states of Missouri and Kansas

Jim Kientzy of AT&T gave a presentation to the Committee. Opening with the City of Ladue and AT&T working together.

The presentation included the population, area and wireless assets in Ladue and the surrounding municipalities of Frontenac, Olivette, Creve Coeur and Brentwood. The number of wireless assets or nodes vary. Frontenac, Olivette and Brentwood have one or two, while Ladue and Creve Coeur have twelve or thirteen. Four of the nodes in Ladue are considered macro towers and the remaining nine are small cells. He shared data usage by municipality, however the nodes do not recognize these boundaries thus generating overlap in municipal node usage. Ladue data usage was notably less per day than the surrounding communities. Density, coverage, speed, gap areas and stone and brick construction, are all driving factors in coverage issues. The major contributor is tower height. Surrounding AT&T towers average from 71 to 91 feet high whereas the average tower height in Ladue is 44 feet. Many AT&T nodes are located below the tree canopy.

Data gathered from user devices verify several low coverage areas throughout the City. Based on these gap areas AT&T has planned eight new nodes and is pursuing increased placement height. Approval must be obtained from both Ameren and the City of Ladue. AT&T seeks openness, willingness to discuss new projects and better height to serve the community and create efficiency for their product.

5G is the new protocol that allows for faster speed, lower latency and increased battery life. AT&T 5G is already on air in the St. Louis area and currently uses new radios in the 850 MHz band but will be migrating more spectrum to 5G based usage. This technology allows for many more

applications. The progression will improve as upgrades take place with antennas and consumer devices over time. The gap area of Lay Road does have a future node planned.

Ladue cellular “NODES” regulations discussion

Chairman Hiemenz directed the committee to the meeting packet documents including a map of city owned right-of-ways and photos of nodes, including the new node located at Litzsinger Road at Warson Road. Towers, antennas and nodes are the three ways carriers increase coverage.

Mr. Reed reported that there are nine **AT&T** nodes planned; this number reflects an additional node mentioned by Mr. Kientzy. Nodes are the fastest way to increase coverage. The preferred equipment is more streamlined and less bulky as depicted in the packet. The following is a suggested simplified application process after the carrier acquires funding to install a node on an existing pole. The one-page application including:

- the location of the existing pole,
- a photo of the existing pole,
- a photo of the proposed antenna and
- a photo of the equipment to be attached to the pole,
- an explanation if the streamlined boxes will not be utilized including the reason,
- the possibility for multiple carriers and
- the installation date.

All equipment must be installed at a minimum height of six feet on the pole; equipment must not exceed a maximum of two feet in height. Applications would be valid for six months. Properly submitted applications will be approved in 20 days or less.

Discussion ensued, the current ordinance allows only fifteen feet above the highest power line or between thirty and forty feet.

Mr. Rupinski offered to contact Ameren to clarify pole design, limiting factors for pole height and gauge their interest.

Ms. Lamitola reported the requirement for Ameren to obtain permits for the right-of-way, and the opinion of some residents that consider poles and towers visual clutter. Although poles may be less obtrusive than towers from a visual standpoint. She shared a possible resource of higher poles that traverse through the City via the old Pacific Railroad corridor.

Discussion included; AT&T may not consider higher poles and nodes as adequate and a tower may still be necessary. Ameren may restrict use and the poles may not be accessible. Fiber is being laid on these poles now via helicopters. Carriers may not want to work around 34,000 volts. A 138KV transmission tower in Maplewood has a cell tower on top of it. There is one located near Overland and one in Maplewood.

Chairman Hiemenz reported both AT&T and Verizon's shared concerns regarding Ladue coverage as large lots without dense population, strict zoning code, high tree canopy and the desire to maintain the rural aesthetic. The challenge is to identify potential areas for height against the backdrop of real estate. Looking for city owned properties, and right-of-ways for suitable placement.

Mayor Spewak shared the need for analysis of full and partial coverage, and what that looks like to the residents. These decisions will have an impact on zoning. Unfortunately, not everyone will be happy with the outcome, and the residents must be informed. All property values could be

impacted in an area without adequate cell coverage. We must find balance with the residents and the carriers.

Update on discussions with AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile

T-Mobile

Mr. Hiemenz reported that T-Mobile is fully engaged in the consolidation with Sprint. Expanding is not a priority at this time. They do have interest in a tower and Mr. Reed put their representative in contact with the staff at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on North Warson for possible steeple use. Sprint has an antenna on the Clayton Road mono-pine. T-Mobile has a tower on the smoke stack adjacent to Ladue Market. After meeting with committee members, they are reviewing and are considering moving from Ladue Market to the mono-pine.

A T&T

As mentioned by Jim Kientzy, AT&T is in the process of adding small cells and the new small cell at Litzsinger and Warson is now up and running. They are working with corporate on a plan to blanket the City of Ladue. They have two meetings coming up devoted exclusively to Ladue.

Verizon

Melody Allen is currently working to get the City of Ladue in the Verizon 2021 Capital Budget. The area she had shared with the committee for upgrade were primarily to the North and East.

Mr. Rupinski stated that the coverage map shared today by AT&T is generated by feedback from devices to the carrier. This data from Verizon would be very helpful. Mr. Hiemenz added he would request the information from Melody Allen, for internal use only, not to be shared with the public. Mayor Spewak will ask the City Attorney regarding non-disclosure.

Other New Business

Mr. Reed acquired tower information for St. Peters steeple which was shared with T-Mobile. The meeting packet contained a list of action items. Chairman Hiemenz suggested the committee choose and execute a few of these suggestions prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Hiemenz went over the timeline for the committee. The next meeting the primary focus will be on the Ladue code of ordinances. He suggested creating a new section in the code for Cell Communication. This would be useful for residents, officials and carriers.

March will be a 'lightning round' the members will share plans, policy, procedure and strategies to prepare to present the recommendation at the April City Council meeting.

Mr. Hiemenz will email the committee to establish the next meeting date and time.

Adjournment

Chairman Hiemenz adjourned the meeting at 10:05 A.M.

Mr. Charlie Hiemenz, Chairman