

**MINUTES OF MEETING
LADUE CELLULAR SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF LADUE, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020, 9:00 A.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 9:05 A.M.

The following members were present:

Chairman Charlie Hiemenz

Anita Chimento

Tim Reboulet

Chip Wiese

Absent:

Larry Reed

Eloise Schmitz

Mike Rupinski

Also present were Andrea Sukanek, City Planner and Anne Lamitola, Director of Public Works

Approval of the October 29, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Hiemenz asked the members if there were any revisions to the minutes, hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Wiese made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Chimento. All those present were in favor.

Mr. Hiemenz consolidated the update agenda items and gave a detailed update as such.

Update on meeting/conversations with AT&T and on T-Mobile and Verizon contact names and contact information

Mr. Rupinski is still working on a obtaining a contact person for Verizon Wireless. Thanks to Anne Lamitola, for providing a T-Mobile/ Sprint contact. Mr. Hiemenz and Ms. Sukanek met with the T-Mobile/ Sprint Government Operations and Account Manager via Webex. T-Mobile and Sprint have consolidated as of April 1st. Their technology is being merged, they are consolidating their towers and antennas which will significantly increase coverage in the City of Ladue. T-Mobile dead zones may be eliminated by Sprint coverage and vice versa. The merger will be taking place during 2020-2021 and until completion, their customers can cross roam as needed. The City contact for T-Mobile specified making Ladue a priority.

Ms. Schmitz provided contact information for the Charter Spectrum Communications group Vice President of Wireless Products in Denver. He shared that Spectrum offers a broad band home-based cell service for their customers. Spectrum does not have any towers in Ladue and work off of the Verizon network. He stated the two factors imperative to encourage cell carriers are real estate and that higher is better. Real estate is necessary to put up towers or attach antenna. Look for city owned buildings, properties and right of ways. Higher is better, look for steeples, cupolas or other tall structures that will balance with the esthetics. To encourage the three main carriers the City must be a conduit to access to real estate, city owned or private and streamline the permitting process or waive fees.

Mr. Roubelet provided an A T & T contact. Mr. Hiemenz and Ms. Sukanek attended an initial webinar with the A T & T contact. Mr. Reed and Mr. Hiemenz attended a breakfast meeting with the A T & T regional director of mobility and his boss who covers 3-5 states. Mr. Hiemenz gave a summary of the meeting, A T & T is a for profit entity, they want to go to areas they know will be profitable. Armed with the knowledge that the City of Ladue has a committee in place A T & T will work harder than ever with Ladue. A T & T is a national entity, in demand, with pressure to expand. A T & T has experienced a change in leadership and their primary focus is now residential. One of the advantages the City has is above ground utility poles. They simplify the installation process of fiber optics and antennas. They agreed on behalf of A T & T to put together a project plan and capital budget to blanket the City of Ladue.

After positive Communication with A T & T and T-Mobile/Sprint, Verizon's participation should be easily achieved. Sharing the City's willingness to improve service and changing the carriers' perception is important.

Mr. Wiese said the carrier's motivation is great, but a roadblock can change that and cause that enthusiasm to move on elsewhere. He drove around checking out tower locations. Some municipalities have large towers with multiple users rather than multiple single use towers. Some cities will allow a few spots for towers and strongly encourage shared carrier use; led by A T & T this might be the way to go. Mr. Wiese stated that 5g technology requires more sites and less height. The high frequency has less range.

Mr. Hiemenz concurred, the mono-pines can service four to six carriers, where only three are currently necessary. These stealth towers located in the right areas could meet the height criteria. The City of Ladue has many mature trees, and towers above the tree canopy increase coverage by a factor of four. Implementation of 5g is just beginning and requires users to upgrade devices. It may start in more urban areas.

Ms. Chimento inquired about how MoDOT impairs access to right of ways? Ms. Lamitola stated she is working on confirmation that they do allow some cell facilities on their right of ways. MoDOT has several restrictions, one being that they must have access at all times. There are sound walls, setbacks, easements and slopes to consider. She obtained information that A T & T is looking at increasing the height of the pole on Ladue Road to 30 feet above the top of the pole which is not currently permissible by ordinance. The committee may want to consider making a recommendation to change the ordinance.

Ms. Chimento asked what is the highest point in Ladue to address full coverage. Mr. Wiese replied the boarder to Olivette on Warson Road. That peak is 700 feet above sea level. She asked what the buildings are that accompany the mono-pines and stated the opinion that they are not stealth with out proper screening and not indigenous to the area. Mr. Hiemenz stated the accessories with the mono-pines are backup batteries and generators to insure power. The purpose of the committee is to gain information to present to the City Council. Nothing will be implemented without proper vetting through the City Council with public input, Zoning and Planning, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and back to the Council again with public input.

Ms. Chimento suggested an architectural statement such as a clock tower.

Mr. Roublet stated it may be advantageous to work with municipalities bordering Ladue. A tower on a Clayton high rise would be a possibility.

Mr. Wiese stated that Frontenac has several dated poles that are now used for cell antennas. The Frontenac Hilton has potential for tower placement.

Discussion on 5G as a committee priority

Discussion ensued, although it will take time for the networks to update to 5g, and users will not benefit without updated 5g phones, the consensus is to look at current and future data needs and consider 5g in planning. The Cityscape proposal includes 5g implementation.

Scope of Services Proposal from CityScape Consultants, Inc.

Mr. Hiemenz, Mr. Reed, Ms. Sukanek attended a ZOOM meeting with Cityscape regarding the four-phase proposal. The proposal can be purchased in entirety or in standalone phases.

Phase 1- Coverage maps identifying dead zones and gap areas by operating frequency-not by carrier.

Phase 2- Heat maps to chart capacity based on subscribers-not by carrier.

Phase 3- Strategy to achieve goals based on mapping results and to determine if our city code is in compliance with federal and state regulations and guidelines.

Phase 4- Recommendations

Committee discussion included: Ms. Sukanek sees value in mapping proposal, and public outreach, however she is confident the code meets current guidelines and regulations and has information regarding the location of existing towers and antenna.

Ms. Lamitola stated phase 2 is important information if we cannot get this from the carriers. Mr. Hiemenz stated the carriers legally cannot share, but their map has towers and antenna.

Mr. Reboulet shared the FCC has the information, but it would not be easy to acquire. His company works with www.ZetX.com and they have thorough information on towers and strength. For a fee they would provide further analysis.

Mr. Hiemenz reported that Mr. Rupinski is looking into a Chicago based consulting company. Multiple proposals will be beneficial, and in inquiring good information can be obtained at no cost. Mr. Rupinski had shared information on an APP that supplied signal strength and more, but it does not work with Apple products.

Other New Business

Mr. Reed shared information on a home signal booster kit. For less than \$200 these kits can solve dead zone issues in most Ladue homes. Discussion ensued. The committee shared these can be an inexpensive remedy for home use, but some require each device to be registered prior to use. They do not remedy the issue for guests (until registered) or for those on the move.

Mr. Hiemenz, with the Mayor's support, would like to appoint Mr. Reed to Vice-Chairman of the committee. Mr. Wiese made a motion to approve Mr. Reed as Vice-Chairman. Ms. Chimento seconded the motion. All those present were in favor, and the motion carries.

Mr. Hiemenz will be addressing the City Council at the December meeting with an update on the committee's meetings.

Schedule next meeting

The next meeting will be held on December 17th at 9:00AM.

Adjournment

Ms. Chimento made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wiese. All those present were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:58.

Mr. Charlie Hiemenz, Chairman