

Pearl District Neighborhood Association  
Planning, Design & Transportation Committee

Minutes for November 16, 2010

Ken Aaron – Neighborhood Notes	Patricia Gardner – Chair	Pat Lydon – Member
David August – Member	Alison Gavire – Visitor	Tyler Malta – PNCA
Adela Basayne – Resolution Northwest	Bob Girsberger – Member	Jennifer McCord – PNCA
Gayle Bast – Resident	Michael Hall – Member / PNCA	Shiela McMahon - Member
John Baymiller – Member	Sarah Hollander – PNCA	Jason Naiman – Member / Group Jake Collaboration Design
Caitlin Bergeon – Resident	Sue Horn-Caskey – Member	David Olson - CC/FM City of Portland
Monica Drake – PNCA	LeRae Hunt – Member / Recess in the Pearl	Ed Osspour – Resident
Jack Featheringill – Resident	Alexandra James – PNCA	Steven Topp – Powder River Dev. Svc
Alyce Flitcraft – Member	Ron Jennings – Member	
Mary Frosch – Powder River Dev. Svc	Bruce Levy – Member	

**Minutes**

- August moved to approve the Nov 2, 2010 minutes as corrected. d'Autremont seconded. The motion passed with four abstentions.

**Clearwire**

- Adela Basayne, a volunteer facilitator with Resolutions Northwest, discussed the format of the meeting. Basayne discussed that the Federal Government is in charge of siting telecommunication towers via the FCC. Local jurisdictions may not prevent telecom services, therefore the City has limited ability to limit a location. Basayne mentioned that health concerns would not be responded to during the meeting. It was recommended to visit Commissioner Fritz's page on the [www.PortlandOnline.com](http://www.PortlandOnline.com) site.
- Steven Topp, a consultant with Powder River Development Services that was hired by Clearwire for siting and permitting of Clearwire antenna discussed the proposed antenna and supporting equipment for corner of 13th and Kearny. The area has been identified as a gap in coverage. Powder River has been working on about 300 sites for antennas in the Portland area.
- Topp discussed that the project would extend an existing PGE pole, and presented two design options for the antenna equipment. With the antenna, the pole would have a height between 66 and 69 ft depending on whether the antenna was contained in a canister instead of being exposed. In addition, a 2ft x 2ft x 5ft tall box located 13 ½ ft above the ground would contain additional equipment.
- There were 4 candidate locations, including the roofs of PNCA, Riverstone and 24hr Fitness, but due to several issues, including structural and health concerns, the utility pole remains the only option.
- Several different web sites containing health studies were discussed, however Basayne reminded the group that the topic was now allowed to be discussed.
- Gardner was concerned with the 13th and Kearny location, since it would be in the 13th Ave historic district, as well as the height. She suggested other locations. Topp mentioned that he is willing to discuss other locations within a 2 block radius, but the height is necessary to cover the area. Also, there is a need for a 9ft separation between the antenna and the power line.
- The proposed location is owned by PGE and is a power pole first and foremost. PGE is not allowed to add poles, but can go up to certain heights.
- d'Autremont discussed that the Council Crest area, with the large radio towers, does have a perception of health concerns and has impacted home values.
- Several questions were asked and answered.
  - Q:** How much noise does the equipment generated? **A:** Topp responded that the new equipment is about 41 dba (fairly quiet), and was inspected by the noise ordinance officer. Topp was to provide a location with similar equipment for comparison.
  - Q:** Could the equipment box be buried? **A:** Due to right-of-way rights, Clearwire would be required to get permission from the adjacent building owner to create an underground vault. Topp didn't think it would be practical to place a vault in the location, but he would ask Clearwire if they were willing.
  - Q:** If the equipment changed, would Clearwire need approval? **A:** Topp responded that if the equipment fit in the existing box that it would not need approval.
  - Q:** What was the notification process and why weren't the PNCA students notified? **A:** Topp discussed that the notification process, including notifying 975 residents and property owners that are within a 400 ft radius of the area. Topp mentioned that they have used a 500 ft radius in notifications just to make sure notification

requirements have been followed. Additional residents and property owners would be notified if the site was moved outside the 400 ft radius.

- Hall made a motion to deny the application. Levi seconded. After discussion that the process cannot really be changed in the short-term, it was decided to table the motion to re-consider alternative locations, such as 12th and Kearny or building rooftops.
- Lydon asked what would happen with the equipment if Clearwire was to fail. David Olson from the City's Cable Communications and Franchise Management bureau responded that Clearwire would be responsible for the removal, and there is a bond to cover the cost in the event Clearwire is not able to remove the equipment themselves.

#### **Announcements**

- Tax revenue is down for the River District URA, but the impact to the budget is not yet known.
- Gardner attended a hearing for Centennial Mills, which considered several options for the site, including stopping the project, and just tearing the mill down. However, since all options cost money, PDC will continue working with the Lab. Gardner mentioned that PDC seems to be focusing on projects that create jobs.