

CITY OF CLE ELUM
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Meeting Minutes
20 August 2019 6:00

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6 **1. Roll Call and Call to Order**

7 *Commissioner Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. All commissioners present.*

8 **Set Agenda**

9 None.

10 **2. Review of the minutes**

11 Review minutes from August 6, 2019. No changes.

12 **3. Announcements, Appointments, Awards, & Recognitions**

13 None.

14 **4. Business Requiring Open Hearing**

15 CUP-2019-002 and VAR-2019-001 – Wireless/Vertical Bridge Wireless Communication
16 Facility.

17 *Commissioner Clark read aloud the hearing process and hearing rules, as well as the*
18 *Commission's review limitations. Commissioner Clark requested Staff's overview of project*
19 *procedure to date. Applicant Matt Grugan from Vertical Bridge (co-applicant) with SAC*
20 *Wireless (co-applicant) in audience. Mr. Grugan presented the project to the Commission.*
21 *Hearing opened at 6:50 pm. Commissioner Clark proceeded to request comments on the*
22 *statements made by the Commissioners, each citing no conflicts of interest.*

23 **In response, the following members of the community stated:**

- 24 • Michael Lancaster – 519 N Montgomery Ave, concerned that he read on
25 *facebook that someone on the board already made up their mind.*
26 ○ *Commissioner Lundh responded that there were comments made online that he*
27 *had made up his mind, which he stated were untrue.*
28 • Lynda Lien – 802 E 3rd St, stated Commissioner Lundh was co-founder of an
29 *internet marketing company who relies on the internet commented that his*
30 *business would be benefitting from better coverage.*
31 ○ *Commissioner Lundh stated that many small businesses use the internet to*
32 *conduct business. Due to comment becoming discussion, Planner Temple*
33 *advised the Commission did not need to discuss, but rather accept the comment*
34 *and move on.*
35 • John Kavanagh – 312 W 3rd St, asked Commissioners whether there was any ex
36 *parte communication with any City employees promoting this project.*
37 ○ *Commissioner Clark advised Mr. Kavanaugh to make the comment*
38 *during the general hearing.*
39 ○ *Councilmember Steven Harper asked Commissioner Clark for a point of*
40 *order.*

41 **Commissioner Clark asked whether the Commissioners had done a site visit. All but**
42 **Commissioner Davis had performed a site visit. Commissioner Clark opened hearing**
43 **comments up to general comments.**

- 44 • Patricia Preston – 906 W 2nd #105, Concerned about wind and fire, people
45 *meditate in the park. Discussed radio frequency in towns, desire to preserve land*
46 *and view. Concerned about whether City is following the contract. Stated health*
47 *problems, allergen like flu and would like to keep what we have.*

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- Tim Reynolds – 208 W 3rd St, Discussed long-term studies on cell tower radiation, health concerns and permissible distances from towers.
 - James O’Reilly – South Cle Elum, Concerned with giving community away without just, industry-standard compensation (\$100,000/year).
 - Jim Eitemiller – 109 W 3rd St, Discussed his position on Council at time of land donation, intent of donation. Impacts on efforts of community.
 - Kent McCormack – 302 E 4th St, Stated concerns of distance to houses. Reiterated information provided to City during comment period about effects of towers. Discussed insurance Policy and listed some other companies’ insurance policies. And cited costs of Taylor Bridge Fire, asking who would pay if their limits were reached.
 - Kate Phillips Pritchard – 315 N Wright, Stated who Council represents. Discussed stats of possible T-Mobile use in Cle Elum. Stated project profits to risks, and stated tower should be 1500+ feet from residents.
 - Greg Barr – 407 E 3rd St, Discussed tower locations. Stated concern with property donation, amount of green spaces in City, and stated concern with potential additional towers.
 - Susan Wilson – 312 E 3rd St, Object to site. Hoping Commission listens to what everyone says. On record object to location.
 - Duane Dobbs – 312 E 4th St, Believes will affect property values.
 - Geraldine Haugen – 720-A E 3rd St, Stated expectation of property as park. Curious about environmental impact and runoff impacts to 4th Street. Stated desire for location to remain rural.
 - John Kavanaugh – 312 W 3rd St, Collected 5 pages of petitions on 300 block of 3rd Street and stated potentially more would be opposed. Stated community would prefer a park. Discussed health, and questioned Commission’s engineering credentials. Stated not favorable of 5G.
 - Linda Lien – 802 E 3rd St, Stated concern with property donation and decision to allow cell tower. Concern with finding out about proposal from newspaper. Stated the residents do not deserve to have it.
 - Brad Paige – 112 W 5th St, Stated he lives 1000-ft from site of tower and 1500 ft from tower can be affected. Stated desire to live here another 40 years.
 - Kathy Barr – 407 E 3rd St, Stated concern with people working to make Cle Elum beautiful, and tower going to destroy view of hillside.
 - Mike Miller – Ronald, WA, Stated his family donated the property. Stated that everyone at the City involved with the donation is no longer here. Mr. Miller discussed the donation agreement and ongoing litigation with the City.
 - Jim Schlichting – 310 W 4th St, Stated that LTE coverage not an issue with correct carrier and the land was donated as a park.
 - Michael Lancaster – 519 N Montgomery Ave, Stated working as law enforcement in Issaquah in the 1980s when Issaquah guaranteed to be left green. Concerned that when he purchased his property he was told property next door in Cle Elum was going to stay a park. Concerned about health.
 - Dorothy Olsen – 312 E 3rd St, Concerned that the neighborhood closest to the proposed tower are not in Suncadia and want to see trees.

- Steven Harper – 616 W 2nd, Stated that City passed ordinance Tuesday 8/13 that any monies made on the property to be put into park reserve fund to be used on city parks. Discussed motivations for taking office as Council.
- Raven Hill – South Cle Elum, Concerned with greed. Stated saw newspaper article about hearing about cell tower and didn't feel there was full disclosure. Stated cell tower in park not honoring and concerned about health risks and proximity to people.

Commissioner Clark Closed the Public Hearing at 7:30pm. Commissioner Clark suggested to Commission that based on comments and materials submitted, that Commission consider moving deliberations to next meeting to take time to allow appropriate review of material. Commissioner Lundh made motion to move deliberation to next meeting. Commissioner Davis Seconded. No further discussion, motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Clark thanked everyone for their comments.

5. **New Business**

No new business.

6. **Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items (limited to 5 minutes)**

None.

7. **Public Appearances**

None.

8. **Unfinished Business**

None.

9. **Staff Report**

Planner Temple presented staff report. Overview of last Council meeting 8/13 – discussed reorganization of Parks & Recreation Committee and RES-2019-011 amending the Park Reserve Fund use and source of funds. Discussed hiring of on-call planning firm to temporarily assist with planning needs. Informed Commission they would have a hearing at the 9/3 Commission meeting to hear changes to the Shoreline Master Program and listed additional hearings and upcoming permits. Commissioners received staff report in 8/20 packets. Planner Temple explained role of Staff with Planning Commission for permits.

Commissioner Clark Allowed Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Tim Reynolds – asked a question about how a sign could be moved on a private road. Planner Temple provided general answer, and offered to speak with Mr. Reynolds at City Hall if he had further questions.

10. **Report of Committees**

None.

11. **Comments from Commissioners and/or Staff**

None.

12. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Debra Davis seconded by Pam Hawk. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm. Next regular meeting Tuesday 3 September 2019, 6:00 pm.