

**Northridge South Neighborhood Council
Special Meeting
Minutes
August 12, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Nick Franchino 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Nick Franchino.

Board of Directors Roll Call. Three excused absences: Loneathea Jones, Irene Boyd, and Scott Sterling. A quorum was established.

Approval of the Minutes for the previous meeting. Minutes for the Town Hall meeting will be added and approved at the next regular meeting of the Board on August 26th.

Cell Tower Presentation by Synergy: Walter Gaworecki and Erik Lilliedahl, Synergy representatives gave a presentation about the proposed cell towers.

First Tower: 9028 North Balboa, existing monopole, C zoning, 60 foot pole, co-location required.

Two scenarios. First scenario to extend 60 ft pole another 10 ft or so, second scenario one new pole, 45 ft, disguised as pine tree.

Questions: How much is paid to property owner? No comment by Synergy. Is 70 ft pole typical? Not normally, they are usually shorter. What about poles near airport approaches? Installations must be cleared with FAA. What about EMF signal? Synergy has studies they will provide that indicate no harm to neighborhood. Discussion ensues on this point.

Second Tower: Louise and Saticoy/ Discussion of design for incorporation into building rooftop.

Discussion of details of construction. Zoned C 1/2 VL. 45 ft height limit. 3 ft mansard roof, 10 ft installation for viewable 7 ft.

Questions: Is there a need for this pole, what about other existing poles? Co-location with pole on south east side of Saticoy in shopping center not currently under consideration. No response from owners and issue with the need to trim existing trees around current pole. No indication that there has been an aggressive attempt to contact and negotiate with owner. Health dangers of installation (emissions/batteries) so close to day care center. Synergy responds on dangers of batteries, offers information on their safety. Discussion the fire on the T-Mobile pole. Ensuing discussion with Synergy folks on whether this was arson or not. Noted that Cliff B. has some information on this subject.

Synergy final comments: Happy to follow up on battery questions and on EMF health

issues. Appreciated the time to come and speak to the council, will stay and be available to respond to questions during deliberations.

Final Comments by Board: The Balboa project is just beginning and the board and the Synergy representatives will work together to design an installation which satisfies the neighborhood and the board. The board will be contacting Synergy to discuss this project more fully as it goes forward.

Public comments on projects:

Cliff B. makes points about deceptive coverage map. Synergy replies that they did not hand out copies of the map in black and white. They contend that pole at Armenian Church was never turned on and in use. Cynthia D. echoes same issues. Asserts the power was on to tower, repeats health issues. Vigorous discussion ensues. Jeannette Burwell has question about liability for installation and whether it is easier to place an installation in a residential area rather than a commercial one. Responses from Synergy folks indicated that liability lies with multiple agencies, but that Synergy's name says on the project. Occasionally the pole is sold to a vendor who maintains microwave installations and rents the use back to the carrier. No plans here to do that. Synergy also contended that it is much harder to place an installation in a residential area, and they prefer to put it in a commercial one, if necessary.

Comments by Ken Watts on difference of perception/opinion here, echoes the safety issues. Cliff B. speaks again and shows pictures of a tower located nearby the installation in question and indicates that the carrier there is looking for companies to co-locate on the pole. Synergy replies that this pole is too far away to provide the need coverage. End of public comments.

Four additional cards from the public members not wishing to speak urge a no vote for the project.

The Board Findings

After a brief discussion of the possibility of other locations already containing cell towers, the following motion was made by Nick Franchino.

"The motion of the NSNC is to request that the Zone Administrator deny the Conditional Use Permit request based on public safety issues, the potential fire danger, health concerns and the close proximity of a licensed day care facility"

A friendly amendment was offered by Chris Sales, based on the response of the Synergy representatives that they would be willing to discuss the installation of the cell tower on an existing utility pole in the common strip, at a spot to be determined. The equipment for the tower would be buried below the sidewalk. The friendly amendment added:

" and to work with the Synergy Representatives to find an appropriate site for the installation of a cell tower in the adjacent common strip, commercially centered, utilizing existing utility poles".

A 2nd was made by Margaret Landers. After further brief discussion, the motion, with the friendly amendment, was adopted unanimously.

The other item of business was to confirm that the 4th Thursday of the month would remain the date of the monthly meeting of the NSNC. Brief discussion centered on the fact that we had the Middle School officially booked for the next year, and that the 4th Thursday was one of the few dates not already taken by other neighborhood councils or by Neighborhood Watch or Basic Car meetings. After a brief discussion the dates was confirmed with a unanimous vote. The meetings for November and December will be moved to the 3rd Thursday due to the holidays. Motion to approve the meeting dates was made by Chris Sales, 2nd by Lucky Lukhani.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 was made by Judi Greenberg. 2nd by Sher Hogan.