



**CITY OF FOWLER
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
May 5, 2011
MINUTES**

Chairman Mukai called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Gary Mukai, Craig Mellon, Sandie Monis and Henry Fernandez

Commissioners Absent: Mark Rodriguez

City Staff Present: City Attorney, Regina Garza, City Manager, David Elias, Community Development Director Randy Deaver, Planning Consultant, Bruce O'Neal, and Planning Secretary Corina Burrola

Re-Organization:

A nomination was made by Commissioner Monis to re-elect Gary Mukai as Chairman for the Planning Commission this was second by Commissioner Fernandez and passed by a unanimous vote.

A nomination was made by Commissioner Monis to re-elect Craig Mellon as Vice-Chairman for the Planning Commission this was second by Commissioner Fernandez and passed by a unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Fernandez moved to approve the minutes for March 10, 2011 and was second by Commissioner Mellon and passed by a unanimous vote.

Public Presentation:

There were no public presentations (Public Presentation closed at 6:36 p.m.)

Agenda Item No. 6:

Public Hearing to Consider Conditional Use Permit No. 11-01, a proposal filed by Crown Castle to permit Co-location of a 6 foot Microwave Dish Antenna for Verizon on the Existing Crown Castle tower located at 215 N. Sumner Avenue (APN No. 343-340-01).

Planning Consultant, Bruce O'Neal opened with presenting to the staff a brief summary of the project description. Mr. O'Neal stated that Commissioner Mellon does have a conflict of interest on this particular application because he lives within 500 feet of the project, at this time Vice Chair Mellon recused himself from the panel Mr. O'Neal preceded with his summary. Crown Castle has submitted a CUP application to permit co-location of a 6-foot microwave dish antenna for Verizon on the existing lattice tower located at 215 N. Sumner Avenue on the Wright Oil property. Cell tower use on the Wright Oil property has been the subject of six CUPs beginning in 1994; an additional CUP was proposed in 2008 but withdrawn. This is the fourth CUP that deals with the northern lattice tower the original permit was issued in 1994. City policy with regard to cell towers is identified within the HB (Highway Beautification) Overlay District. The HB district applied to all properties within 1,000 feet of Highway 99 and contains regulations to those within the underlying zone district. The major provisions are: the landowner and the applicant shall have the ability to enter into leases with other carriers for co-locations, new

Communication towers shall be separated by not less than 1,500 feet from existing tower, any tower not operated for a continuous period of 12 months shall be considered abandoned and the owner of such tower is responsible for removal of the tower within 90 days of notification by the City.

Tricia Knight, Pismo California, representing Crown Castle stepped up to the podium to answer any questions regarding the project. Panel antennas that are located on top of the tower are used to transmit and receive signals for cell phone usage. The microwave dishes that are round need telephone and electrical connection. This dish will act as a donor to another site that does not have a dish which will help to strengthen the network, fiber allows for more people to use the cell sites

The site is maintained at least four times a year; each carrier will take care of their own antennas. Crown Castle leases an area on the property from Wright Oil that they obtain exclusive lease rights to a certain piece which includes the tower and any equipment for their tenants. Crown Castle owns the tower; Verizon is currently one of the carriers on the tower. There are currently two towers available that carry Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, Nextel, and Cricket to name a few.

There were no public presentations pertaining to CUP No. 11-01 (Closed at 6:59 p.m.)

A motion was made by Commissioner Fernandez to approve Resolution No. 569 approving Conditional User Permit No. 11-01; this was second by Commissioner Monis and passed on a roll call vote of 3-1-0-1.

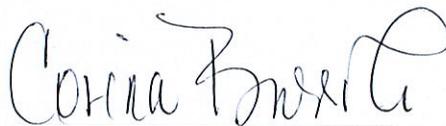
Communications:

City Manager, David Elias, reminded the Commissioners of the Planning Commissions' Workshop scheduled for Friday, May, 13, 2011 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at the Visalia Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center.

Mr. Elias also informed the Commissioners and Staff of an upcoming special meeting to be held next Wednesday, May 11, 2011 in the Council Chamber. Meeting will be with Quad Knopf and the Council regarding the Measure C Extension Plan of redevelopment and reconstruction of the Golden State Corridor. They are requested to attend this meeting.

No other business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.


Gaty Mukai
Chairman


Corina Burrola
Planning Secretary