

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2010

2009-0851: Clearwire LLC [Applicant] **C P K Family LP et al** [Owner] - Special Development Permit to allow a fourth wireless telecommunications carrier including three panel antennas and three microwave dishes within an approximate 13' tall cupola (Friendship Inn) for a site located at **958 E El Camino Real** (APN: 313-02-034) RK

Andrew Miner, Principal Planner, presented the staff report. He said staff recommends approval of the Special Development Permit subject to the conditions of approval. **Trudi Ryan**, Planning Officer, said color photo simulations have been provided on the dais to better show the visual appearance of the project.

Chair Chang opened the public hearing.

Gordon Bell, representing the applicant, said that several redesigns have been worked through with staff to come up with the proposed design. He discussed the results of the redesigns including reduction in the height of the structure, a faux chimney on the front of the building and said he thinks the design integrates architecturally with the site.

Comm. Hungerford asked Mr. Bell to discuss the transparent screen wall. Mr. Bell explained that the wall would be radiofrequency transparent and would be an opaque fiberglass material that is painted and textured to match the existing walls.

Comm. Klein discussed with Mr. Bell the microwave design and the transparent screen. Comm. Klein said that the Commission has reviewed many Clearwire projects and he does not recall previous discussion about shielding with opaque materials that are transparent to microwaves. Mr. Bell said that most of the prior projects had visual shielding designed to integrate with the architecture of the structures they are on. Mr. Bell said that shielding monopoles with transparent materials does not work very well as the mass of the pole would be increased. Mr. Bell said the equipment for this site would be a co-located within the Sprint/Nextel compound.

Chair Chang closed the public hearing.

Vice Chair Travis moved Alternative 1, to approve the Special Development Permit with the attached conditions. Comm. Rowe seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Travis said he is happy to see the visual shielding and that the project meets the code requirements.

Comm. Rowe said that she appreciates that the project is four feet lower than the preceding installation and said that the applicant made efforts to provide a better visual appearance.

ACTION: Vice Chair Travis made a motion on 2009-0851 to approve the Special Development Permit with attached conditions. Comm. Rowe seconded. Motion carried, 7-0.

APPEAL OPTIONS: This action is final unless appealed to City Council no later than February 9, 2010.

Ms. Ryan commented to the Commission that staff would look at previous projects to make sure shielding design technologies were considered and will be considered on future applications. She said she thinks staff and the applicant have taken the visual shielding into consideration on the prior projects except for possibly the monopole projects as the shielding would have created additional bulk.