

BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
Technology Advisory Committee

Minutes

February 3, 2022
7:00 PM

The meeting was held virtually using Zoom.

Roll Call

Craig Dean
Nate Dufresne
Matt Garland (Chair)
Annie Graziani
Andy Nock
Cathy Poole (Vice Chair)
John Park
Uday Palled

Old Business

Minutes of the December 2 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Franklin Park Radio Communication

Cathy Poole reported that Luttamus Communication had provided us with a preliminary propagation study that was incomplete and not accompanied by supporting explanation. There is a request to Luttamus to provide additional information.

Andy Nock provided an update on the Allegheny County Emergency Services Plan to update radio communication. The county has no plans for improvements to the North Park Fire 7 repeater system that serves the Franklin Park VFC. The county has already visited and selected available tower location to mount the emergency radio upgrades. None are within Franklin Park/McCandless and therefore will have no impact on radio dead spots in Franklin Park. Any additional repeaters to cover Franklin Park will need to be configured using the county specifications, their approved equipment and vendors and at the expense of Franklin Park.

Current radios for the fire department meet the county standards for P25. The police department and public works will need to upgrade their radios.

There was discussion regarding the need to get Luttamus to complete the propagation study. Cathy and Matt will contact them to try and move things along.

Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance

Uday Palled reported that the Cohen Law Group had attended the Franklin Park Planning Commission (PC) in January to review the proposed changes to the Franklin Park Wireless Communications Facilities ordinance. These changes are prompted by PA Act 50 which codified the requirements for Small Cell facilities across Pennsylvania. The PC requested that the Cohen Law Group investigate the possibility of additional changes to the ordinance, including considering the removal of zone R2 as an approved location for tower-based wireless communication facilities.

There was discussion among the TAC and community members regarding these changes. Members of the TAC were concerned about eliminating R2 as an approved location for tower based WCF as well as setbacks and acreage requirements, given that the major challenges around wireless connectivity in areas designated R2. Community members present were in support of the zoning change and restrictions concerning R2.

Changes to the ordinance will be further discussed at the PC meeting on Feb 15. Cathy Poole will attend to represent the TAC.

New Business

Cellular Reception Improvements

Tom Musgrove and Craig Pearson from Crown Castle gave a presentation on the capabilities of their company. They also provided an assessment of the current state of cellular service in the southern portion of the Borough, including an evaluation of signal strength for all three major wireless carriers. A copy of the presentation had been previously provided to the TAC.

Community members expressed concern about any option of hosting a tower in the Clover Hill Golf Course area. Crown Castle offered to come back with further analysis exploring signal access in the area and options concerning small wireless facilities and lower height towers. No recommendations are made at this time.

Good and Welfare

None

The next meeting is March 3, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom only. In-person meetings will resume for the April meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Poole
Co-Chair