

BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
Technology Advisory Committee
Minutes

September 2, 2021
7:00 PM

The meeting was held in person at the Borough Building and by Zoom.

Roll Call

Nate Dufresne
Matt Garland (Chair)
Annie Graziani
Cathy Poole (Vice Chair)
Andy Nock
John Parks
Luke Myslinski
Chief Bill Chicots
David Farquhar (SBA) - Invited

Old Business

Minutes of the August 8 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Follow-up social media presentation at July 7 Council meeting
No new updates.

New Business

Communication Tower

Andy Nock and Chief Chicots provided an update on the current state of radio communication for Franklin Park Fire, Police and Public Works departments.

Current situation:

- One repeater at North Park on Kummer Rd.
- Provides 85% coverage
- Communicating with Allegheny County is an issue
- Cannot depend on public utilities for coverage
- Recent issue during “Storm Mode” where radio communication was impacted
- Allegheny County will provide frequency licenses to Franklin Park but will not provide the repeaters or radios

Members of the community were present at the meeting and had comment on placement of a cell tower on the golf course. Those comments were heard during the meeting rather than being held until the end.

Charles Horton
Farmington Ct.

- One of the closest to the proposed site
- Decrease in property value
- A tower will be an eyesore (shared pictures of disguised cell towers)
- Health concerns 400 ft away— cancer risk (shared study results)
- Land management - runoff issues
- Explore other options - small towers
- No communication to homeowners
- Franklin Park ordinance vs McCandless Twp's ordinance – FP does not provide enough thoughtfulness and detail in its cell phone ordinance

Megan Turnbull
Field Club Ct.

- Tower location - does it need to be so high or in that location?
- Historical review of previous action by Borough regarding cell towers
 - Ordinance specifically written to allow a tower in this location
- Requested a larger analysis
- Very small group to bear this burden
- HB1621 small wireless facility deployment Act

Mike Wilkinson
King Charles

- 8-10 years changed zoning to multi use
- Come to a solution that solves the problem
 - Blueberry hill — Duquesne Light has high tension towers
 - Fire station
 - Micropoles?
- Health concerns – cancer risk
- Mr. Wilkinson recommended that the topics of cell coverage vs public safety be considered separately

Members of the TAC assured the community that no decisions or recommendations had been made regarding a cell tower on the golf course. Information gathering is still in progress. The process will be transparent. At the appropriate time, there will be meetings to share the information with the community.

Next Steps

- Include the community members who spoke in future meetings and discussions regarding communication needs of the Borough.

- Meeting with Verizon on September 9 to review their findings and recommendations
- Andy Nock to meet with SBA to determine radio communication needs and potential solutions
- October 7 agenda will include a review of interim meetings and further discussion on potential solutions.

Good and Welfare

None

The next meeting is October 7, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at the Franklin Park Borough Building. A Zoom meeting will also be available.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Poole
Vice Chair