

From: [Larry Friedberg](#)
To: [Al Royse](#); [Christine Krolik](#); [Larry May](#); [Marie Chuang](#); [Sophie Cole](#)
Cc: [Ann Ritzma](#); [Paul Willis](#); [Sarah Fleming](#); [Lisa Natusch](#); [Christopher Diaz](#); [Tim Guleri \(tguleri@sierraventures.com\)](mailto:tguleri@sierraventures.com); [Sean Jiam](#)
Subject: Response to HTC 3/8/21 Mtg Agenda Item X-16 - Wireless Facilitator
Date: Sunday, March 7, 2021 9:28:31 PM

Dear Mayor Royse, Vice-Mayor Krolik, Council Members Cole, Chuang and May:

Regarding 3/8/21 Hillsborough Town Council meeting agenda item (Item X 16) proposing the City Manager solicit letters form interest from consensus and collaboration firms to perform situational assessment, report and facilitate community dialog, I would like to submit the following to be included in the public record.

In response to item X 16 HCA embraces any effort Town Council invests to increase citizen participation in important issues. That's how democracy is supposed to work. And to that end, a facilitated meeting could be of value and we certainly look forward to having our voices be heard while listening to others and looking at areas where we are in agreement.

Having said that, we are also leery. Why? Because we've seen this movie before. Back in 2018, Town Council hosted a series of "facilitated meetings" which resulted in a watering down of our design standards (Resolution 751) on January 14, 2019. If the Town is merely looking to use a facilitated meeting as a means of "shoe-horning in" any or all the gutted design standards they attempted to pass last July 13, 2020 it will have been a waste of money. Equally important, that type of obfuscation would be a renewed breach of trust. Mayor Royse, Vice Mayor Krolik and Council Member Cole, you told us in no uncertain terms during their campaign last year that you sought to rebuild trust. We take you at your word but have concerns based on how things played out after prior "facilitated meetings."

We do wonder why the Town would elect to take so giant a step back to a square one facilitation when the various points of view were so roundly expressed in 2018. If this is part of a "reset" of the town's wireless planning process, we urge you to disclose to the residents the process you plan to follow. Sharing your plan will help set expectations and build a bridge between the city council and the residents. We believe that "deep listening" regarding an issue as technical as wireless benefits more from - even requires - a different type of neutral facilitator, one with actual hands-on technical expertise who can take the inputs (e.g. aesthetics, proof of improved coverage, setbacks, et al) and actually be able to vet these requirements against best of class technologies to support a master plan for the town that improves cellular coverage and preserves the aesthetics of the community. If the town cannot identify a facilitator with the appropriate wireless technology skills, we suggest that the council expand the funding and scope of this proposal to include both a facilitator and a "neutral technical consultant".

If a facilitated meeting is to happen, our position is that Council should adopt the following

1. The neutral third party should NOT be a consultant to the telecom industry itself (whether an employee or vendor) but, instead, have a demonstrated expertise in wireless technology and of representing the interests of citizens, local governments and non-telecom organizations.
2. The selection process for the hiring of the facilitator should be made public.

3. The WCAC should be re-formed prior to any facilitated meetings. The new WCAC must be re-established as a watchdog for Hillsborough residents, be a Council-level committee that reports directly to the Council chair/s of the committee, and be populated with people who have actual cellular technology expertise, be truly balanced in terms of perspectives related to cell technology and aesthetics. We believe seating the WCAC before these facilitated meetings would be of significant value to these members' learning curves.

We believe our recommendations will go far in helping us achieve a highly transparent, collaborative, democratic and, ultimately successful effort to improve cell coverage in Hillsborough, while ensuring our aesthetic values.

Thank you.

Larry Friedberg, Co-Founder, Hillsborough Citizens Alliance

From: [Aaron Zornes](#)
To: [Lisa Natusch](#)
Cc: [Al Royse](#); [Christine Krolik](#); [Larry May](#); [Marie Chuang](#); [Sophie Cole](#); [Ann Ritzma](#); [Paul Willis](#); [Sarah Fleming](#); [Christopher Diaz](#)
Subject: public comment re: ITEM #13 NEW BUSINESS for 8-Mar-2021 Hillsborough Town Council meeting
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 12:51:18 PM

Please include my comment in the Public Record

Re: ITEM 16 – NEW BUSINESS - CONSIDERATION OF WIRELESS ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND FACILITATED COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Thanks to our town leadership for providing additional means to increase citizen participation in important issues such as cell tower aesthetics and locations.

On behalf of the ~2,500 residents who supported my 2020 town council campaign on that topic (and others), and in addition to a large number of comments possibly being submitted concerning this agenda item, we would like to proffer the below COMMENTS for the PUBLIC RECORD.

The below comments also underpin both my campaign's as well as the platform that Royse, Krolik & Cole ran on this past 2020 council election— to better enable “good & transparent governance”.

1. **Given that the WCAC (Wireless Communications Advisory Committee) is an official city committee going forward:**
 - a. All public notices for its meetings should follow state guidelines for announcements
 - b. All such meetings should be open to the public via video, audio and in person (when pandemic-legal)
 - c. All members of such committee be vetted by city clerk and required to follow California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) financial reporting requirements
 - i. Similar to what is planned for code enforcement panel and ADRB positions
2. **We also agree with the positions outlined recently by Hillsborough Citizens Alliance (HCA). Specifically that the *new* WCAC must:**
 - a. Be re-established as a watchdog for Hillsborough residents
 - b. Be a Council-level committee that reports directly to the Council chair/s of the committee
 - c. Be truly balanced in terms of perspectives related to cell technology and aesthetics
 - d. Be populated to include a number of people who have actual cellular technology expertise

Lastly, per the 2nd paragraph of this NEW BUSINESS item, the town states that *“Many communities have utilized the services of a neutral third-party to assist in the assessment of an issue and recommend an engagement process”*. **As part of a traditional due diligence and background research, we assume the town has compiled a list of WHICH communities have used WHICH**

consultancies. Per via California Public Records Act (PRA) freedom of information norms, we are requesting that such list be made available to the general public for our education as well.

Thank you.

Aaron Zornes



Subject: FW: Agenda March 8, 2021/Cellular Discussion

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gary Goodman <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Agenda March 8, 2021/Cellular Discussion
Date: March 8, 2021 at 2:13:04 PM PST
To: aroyse@hillsborough.net, ckrolik@hillsborough.net, lmay@hillsborough.net,
mchuang@hillsborough.net, scole@hillsborough.net, aritzma@hillsborough.net,
pwillis@hillsborough.net, Christopher.Diaz@bbklaw.com

Hi All, please include this comment in the public record.

First and foremost, thank you all for taking on the challenges of city governance....we truly appreciate the dedication that it requires to do a good job.

I am commenting specifically on the potential for a mediator/consultant for the advancement of our cell tower plan/policy. I am 100% in favor of the council members getting reliable and accurate data from trusted sources. My primary suggestion is that we must have a "technical" person on board as part of this process....someone with a deep understanding of cellular technology.

In other words, we all need to know "what is possible" with current technologythis will ensure that the policy decisions are steeped in fact versus "hope". If it is possible to keep cell towers as far away as possible from residences and also provide excellent service, that would be a great outcome for our town. I believe with creativity and effort we can achieve a model cell tower policy....something that will make ALL Hillsborough property values increase.

Thank you,

Gary Goodman
[REDACTED]

From: [Arlene BERNSTEIN](#)
To: [Lisa Natusch](#)
Cc: [Al Royse](#); [Christine Krolk](#); [Larry May](#); [Marie Chuang](#); [Sophie Cole](#); [Ann Ritzma](#); [Paul Willis](#); [Sarah Fleming](#); [Christopher Diaz](#)
Subject: item 16 - wireless assessment process and community dialogue
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 3:08:40 PM

Please include my comment in the public record

Thank you to the Mayor and council for taking up the issue of wireless communication in our community and for offering increased citizen participation.

I'm not sure we need a "neutral third party" to assess our wireless situation. I believe we're almost all in favor of improved cell coverage. We want the best and newest technology the industry has to offer. Our citizens deserve the best. I think we need cell technology experts who can locate sites far enough from homes as to not affect the well being of the residents and/or property value of the homes. The only difference is between those who don't want towers at their homes and those who don't care as long as it isn't their home.

Dr. Philip Bernstein

Arlene Bernstein

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Lisa Natusch](#); [Al Royse](#); [Christine Krolik](#); [Larry May](#); [Marie Chuang](#); [Sophie Cole](#); [Ann Ritzma](#); [Paul Willis](#); [Sarah Fleming](#); [Christopher Diaz](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 3/8/2021 town council meeting Item #16 - Please include my comments in the public record
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 3:58:25 PM

City Council –

As a resident and member of the Hillsborough Citizens Alliance I have been actively engaged in the process of improving cellular coverage AND keeping towers away from homes to preserve the rural character of our town. The good news is that both goals can be achieved simultaneously. The technology exists and all it will take is a city council and city manager who both want the same outcome; better coverage for all **WITH** best-in-class wireless infrastructure deployed in a Hillsborough appropriate manner. Over the years residents and the HCA have done significant research and commissioned our own independent drive test to get baseline data. We are truly looking forward to collaborating with the city and engaging with industry experts in support of the needs of residents and not the carriers.

I believe strongly in listening sessions, but what is more important is a true dialogue where residents, technical wireless experts, town staff and council members can openly discuss the issues and proposals. I am not confident that the proposed “Situational Assessment, final report, and a facilitated dialogue” will serve that purpose. Why would you have a “facilitated dialogue” after you get a “final report”? This proposal runs the risk of permitting the Town to tailor a “final report” to the needs of the wireless carriers and then “facilitate the community dialogue so it can be framed to discuss the solutions” that once again will further remove protections for residents.

I am in support of the town funding a facilitator, but I feel strongly that the following should be required before the city moves forward:

1. Reset the WCAC and promote it as a formal committee reporting to the city council and NOT the city manager. The selection of members and the new charter should be made public. Any facilitated meetings on wireless will be foundational for the new WCAC members. Having a fact-finding discussion and generating a report without the new WCAC in place would be a waste of taxpayers’ money.
2. Expand the funding for not just a facilitator, but also an “impartial technical consultant”. This person should not be beholden to the wireless carriers. They should be able to take the communities requirements and pair them with viable technical solutions.
3. The process should be changed from
 - a. Situational Assessment, final report, and then a facilitated dialogue
To:
 - b. Situational Assessment, Technical Assessment (feasibility), interim findings report, facilitated community dialogue, and ending with a final report that could inform the town’s General Plan.
3. Above all, there must be transparency both in the consultant selection processes and all subsequent meetings. Discussions should either be open to the public or have published meeting minutes for the public to review.

Again, I am pleased to see that The Town is willing to take a more pro-active stance towards improving wireless infrastructure standards, but I do not agree with the current proposed use of a facilitator. Please adopt the 4 imperatives I have listed above before moving forward.

Thank you,
John Lavrich

From: [Jean Parekh](#)
To: [Lisa Natusch](#); [Miyuki Yokoyama](#)
Subject: Public comment for city council meeting tonight
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 4:17:38 PM

sorry this is a few minutes late I was trying to find the correct email address for comments.

To be read during the March 8th City Council meeting in response to Item X.16.
Please include my comment in the public record.

My name is Jean Parekh. I am the homeowner at [REDACTED].

I applaud the idea of retaining a neutral third party to help Hillsborough create the best wireless solution for our residents. My husband, Raj Parekh, suggested this very idea during the December 2017 City Council meeting. But for whatever reason, it was not implemented. We appreciate that you are now reconsidering this idea.

We can all agree that

1. Hillsborough needs better wireless service.

and

2. Telecom companies' main priority is maximizing return to shareholders, not creating the best plan for Hillsborough.

Telecom companies want to extend their reach to captive customers at the lowest possible cost to them. They are not trying to find the best solution for Hillsborough residents that will ensure we have trustworthy voice coverage and a variety of providers to choose from while preserving the aesthetics of our town.

The current plan is the cheapest plan for Verizon, not the best plan. It is not clear if they have agreed to share the towers, so once these towers are up, we can expect two more sets of towers to be placed throughout our town by the other two major carriers.

Based on our discussion with an independent telecom/wireless technical expert (and town resident), it should be feasible to come up with a plan that places towers more than 175-200 feet from schools and homes and get the coverage improvement we all seek.

The most important and difficult part will be finding a true expert who is not beholden to the telecom industry.

If we Hillsborough citizens work together and do not divide ourselves, we can find the best solution for our town, one that doesn't throw any of our town's residents or students under the bus.

Thank you for your time.
Jean Parekh