

COOKS BUTTE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 18, 2019
TIME: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM
LOCATION: Lakeridge High School, Lake Oswego, Oregon

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Pat Evans, Moderator. Mr. Evans identified himself as the moderator. Mr. Evans explained the rules of conduct during the meeting. No phone use during meeting. Handouts were made available when attendees signed in. Meeting is being videotaped by attendee(s) and recorded by C800. C800 will give a presentation that is an overview of what will be submitted to the City of Lake Oswego in reference to a land-use application for a communications tower on Cooks Butte. Each person received a number, if they elected to take one, and people will be called in order to make one comment or one question per person due to the fact that there is a large crowd. The meeting is not the only opportunity for questions or comments.

John Hartsock is introduced as the manager of C800. Mr. Hartsock gives an explanation of what C800 provides to the community. Mr. Hartsock identifies C800 as a consortium of all the public safety providers in Clackamas County that includes 18 different agencies. C800 partners with WCCCA (Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency). Bond was approved in 2016 to replace the existing communications system. Mr. Hartsock turns over presentation to Bjorn Morfin.

Mr. Morfin explains that a 180' tower is proposed at Cooks Butte park. Drawings are shown on poster boards that are included in the handouts. Propagation maps are also provided that show the change in RF coverage before and after the site is built. Photo simulations are also provided that show before and after pictures from various viewpoints.

City of Lake Oswego Police Chief Dale Jorgenson is introduced. Mr. Jorgenson explains that the City of Lake Oswego has its own dispatch center called LOCOM that handles all of the communications – not only for Lake Oswego, but also for the cities of West Linn and Milwaukie by contract. Mr. Jorgenson explains that radios are the police officers most important tool. Mr. Jorgenson explains that there are areas in Lake Oswego where the police cannot communicate on their radios due to poor coverage, including in the basement of Lakeridge High School. Mr. Jorgenson also acknowledges that based on information he has received on the technical side from C800 that the new system, that includes the proposed tower at Cooks Butte, will alleviate most of the radio issues that they currently have.

Sue Scobert from LOCOM is introduced and reiterates Mr. Jorgenson's claim that there are areas of no coverage where the dispatcher cannot "talk" to the officers on their radios.

City of Lake Oswego Fire Chief Don Johnson is introduced and he too explains that he has been in situations where he can't contact others on his radio.

Numbers will now be called by Mr. Evans and each person will be allowed one question/comment.

Attendee mentioned that a tower was proposed in 1986, 1994 and 2002 prior to this proposal. Attendee also mentioned that in 1975, 42 acres were deeded to City in good faith for use as a nature park.

Attendee brought up 2016 bond date and wondered if the towers technology will be out-of-date by the time it's built. Mr. Hartsock explained that 10 years is the current timeline for technology before it could be out-of-date. C800 explains that the land-use application will address all the technology issues.

Attendee asked if C800 looked at alternate locations. Mr. Morfin answered that C800 investigated 17 other locations. Height restrictions and uninterested landlords eliminated many locations and the Cooks Butte location provides the best coverage.

Attendee had a public safety question. Attendee mentioned that cell towers create cancer and it's not safe in a public park. Attendee challenges safety of the tower. C800 responds that studies will be provided in the land-use application. Attendee rebuts that the study would be inadequate.

Attendee asks about the environmental impact of the proposed tower. Attendee cites loss of birds due to tower. C800 responds that the issue will be addressed in the land-use application.

Attendee asks if Grand Ronde tribes had any involvement in project. C800 responds that the Grand Ronde tribe gave their approval for the proposed tower. C800 also states that an archaeologist and an arborist will be on-site during the construction of the tower.

Attendee identifies herself as a wildlife biologist. Asks how C800 is addressing the federal migratory act in reference to birds. C800 responds that a final report will be available and submitted to the City as part of the land-use application.

Attendee asks about the generator and noise. C800 responds that the generator has regular testing once a week. DEQ has set decibel levels that C800 will meet in regards to the HVAC units.

Attendee states that they live next to Cooks Butte Park. Attendee asks about property values. C800 responds that they have not seen any studies that have shown that property values decrease when next to a tower.

Attendee states they are a neighbor of the park and his son is a police officer, asks about how is current equipment non sufficient. C800 replies that there are a few sites currently covering the area, but the technology is changing from analog to digital, which requires additional sites. Also explains that exiting sites are being improved as well. Attendee asks about why tower is so tall. C800 explains we need to get over trees and accommodate for tree growth.

Attendee asked how could the City allow the tower. C800 responded that the City met with the family and allowed the City to sign the lease.

Attendee asked about the generator. C800 responded that the generator will only run when needed due to power outage and testing will occur once weekly.

Attendee stated she was a real estate agent and property values will be affected. Attendee also noted that 1 tower will lead to many. C800 responded that Grand Ronde is only allowing this tower and it is only for public safety.

Attendee said he would not have bought the house he bought a year ago if the proposed tower had been there. Is there a response plan for an emergency at the site? C800 responded that there will be a

response plan with Lake Oswego Fire. C800 also responded that the tower will be designed as an "Essential Facility" which can withstand a 9.0 earthquake.

Attendee asked about other carriers going on this tower. C800 responded that there will not be other carriers on this tower. Attendee asked that the Lease be put online.

Attendee had an environmental comment. Attendee stated that FCC standards for radiation levels are 100 times less than in other countries. Attendee doesn't believe C800 will not lease to wireless carriers and wonders how C800 is financially stable when they are paying the City \$1 a year. C800 responds that the facility is all based on public money and not a money-making operation.

Attendee stated that if C800 has had the lease for 2 years with the City, why weren't they informed earlier. C800 responds that the City did publicize the lease when entering into it at that time.

Attendee stated that a Coos County tower fell over after the guy lines were cut. Attendee also wanted to know the terms of the Grant for C800 to build a tower. C800 responded that the Grant was for Public Utilities.

Attendee stated that the City might be obligated to lease to others at the park. Police Chief responded that leasing issues can be directed to David Powell, the City Attorney.

Attendee stated concerns about the safety of the tower facility after dark. Attendee also stated that Fire would have a difficult time responding to any fire at the park. Fire Chief responded that they would be able to address emergency calls to the park.

Attendee stated radiation concerns and that the tower should be located in another location. C800 responded that the coverage from this location is the best and C800 is limited in amount of towers it can build due to the Bond money and that each tower facility runs about \$1.5 million.

Attendee read affidavit from Emery's and wonder if it was legal to allow the tower. C800 responded that the Emery sons signed, allowing C800 to place a tower in the park. C800 also acknowledged that if their land-use decision gets appealed, the public would have a chance to discuss their concerns with City Council.

Attendee mentions about 30 people went to City Council meeting and got shut down to any questions or comments regarding this project. C800 responded that the City Council is to have no communication with anyone about this project as they may end up hearing the case down the road.

Attendee asked when would land-use application be submitted. C800 responded that it would probably be submitted in 2-3 weeks.

Attendee stated we've broken a lease asked how much coverage will increase, percentage-wise with the new tower. Police Chief responded that based on the technical information he has received from C800, coverage will be better and reiterated how important the radios are to police. Police Chief also mentions that they cannot radio out of the lower level of the high school and they also have radio problems in the Blue Heron area. Comment from crowd on why they can't use cell phones. Police chief states that's not a viable solution. Comment from crowd, will this tower provide coverage in high school and Blue Heron.

Police chief says based on propagation predictions, yes. Multiple questions being asked from crowd, moved on to next number.

Attendee asks why we went away from Skyland candidate. C800 states Cooks Butte is the better site.

Another attendee asks about using cell phones instead of radios. Police Chief responds that cell phones are not viable. They do not have time to dial a phone in an emergency situation.

Attendee comments that the PNA zone is not compatible for a tower. C800 explains we have tough land use codes to work through.

Attendee is concerned about the trend of Lake Oswego with regards to development. Asked that C800 look for another location and not destroy the Park's beauty.

Attendee stated that C800 is looking for the easiest location, not the best location. C800 responds that this is not the easiest location; it's the best location.

Attendee stated that the citizens of Lake Oswego need to put into law to ban towers in parks.

Attendee stated that radiation would not be an issue and just allow C800 to get on with the project.

Attendee commented on using several towers instead of one. C800 had previously responded that cost is the primary issue.

Attendee stated that they had concerns about the wildlife and park with the tower going in. Stated the original owner of park would not want the tower.

Attendee asked that C800 reconsider location as trees are vanishing.

Attendee took objection to the City and stated that we must get rid of City Council.

8:00 PM: The meeting was adjourned.