



CITY of THE DALLES

313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON 97058

(541) 296-5481 ext. 1125
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
CITY OF THE DALLES
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON 97058
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

Wednesday, November 18, 2020
4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair McNary called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Bev Eagy, Forust Ercole, Eric Gleason, Doug Leash and Bob McNary

Commissioners Absent:

Others Present:

Others Absent: City Councilor Scott Randall and Museum Commission
Representative Donna Lawrence

Staff Present: Senior Planner Dawn Hert and Secretary Paula Webb

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senior Planner Hert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Ercole and seconded by Gleason to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 5/0; Eagy, Ercole, Gleason, Leash and McNary in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Gleason and seconded by Leash to approve the minutes of October 28, 2020, as written. The motion passed 5/0; Eagy, Ercole, Gleason, Leash and McNary in favor, none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

HLC Application 183-20, StarTouch, Inc., 400 Scenic Drive

Chair McNary read the rules of a public hearing. He then asked if any Commission members had ex parte contact, conflict of interest, or bias which would prevent an impartial decision. Hearing none, he opened the public hearing at 4:14 p.m.

Senior Planner Hert presented the staff report.

Chair McNary invited comment from proponents.

Joamme Talento, StarTouch, Inc., 454 W. Stuart Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226

Ms. Talento stated their proposal was to mount antennas on Building 1 of Columbia Gorge Community College to provide internet service to the area.

Commissioner Ercole asked if the antennas would create harmful waves. Ms. Talento could not answer the question specifically, but said they were the same type of antennas currently in use on the building.

Commissioner Ercole asked if the antennas were for a specific provider. Ms. Talento said they were for a specific provider in order to extend service to unserved areas outside the campus.

Chair McNary invited comment from opponents.

Kelly Ferguson, 1824 Jefferson St., The Dalles, Mailing Address: PO Box 2713, Sitka, AK 99835

Ms. Ferguson stated the EMF wave frequencies emitted by the microwave wireless antennas would cause “antenna sickness.” Antennas must be located 400 meters or more from residential areas to reduce the risk of cancer. Ms. Ferguson did not support any form of microwave devices facing the community; it is a severe safety issue.

Senior Planner Hert explained the Commission’s role and review criteria deals with historic preservation and the integrity of the building in terms of historic components. This application will also go through the Conditional Use Permit process. Should the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) approve the application for placement, the applicant will then go to Planning Commission for approval to place the antennas on the roof. This public hearing process will deal with Ms. Ferguson’s concerns.

Ms. Ferguson said she does not support the placement of antennas on a historic building.

Senior Planner Hert stated although Ms. Talento was unable to reply to health concerns, Ms. Ferguson’s comments will remain a part of the record for the Conditional Use Permit that will go before the Planning Commission.

Ms. Talento invited her manager to the meeting to respond specifically to questions.

Damien Belvin, Director, StarTouch, Inc., 454 W. Stuart Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226

Senior Planner Hert explained there was an opponent to the application due to potential health hazards. Hert invited Mr. Belvin to comment, but reiterated the HLC reviewed only the placement on the historic building.

Mr. Belvin said the antenna array proposed was already in use by a different provider. The antennas are low-level microwaves that do not pose a health hazard to the community. Mr. Blevin said he had documentation to back that up.

Chair McNary said before Commission discussion, the Commission should agree to consider only the installation of antennas on a historic building.

Chair McNary closed the public hearing at 4:34 p.m.

Commission consensus was to approve the application.

It was moved by Ercole and seconded by Leash to approve HLC Application 183-20. The motion passed 5/0; Eagy, Ercole, Gleason, Leash and McNary in favor, none opposed.

RESOLUTION

Resolution HLC 172-20, Approval of HLC 183-20, StarTouch, Inc.

It was moved by Gleason and seconded by Leash to approve HLC Resolution 172-20 with Conditions of Approval as written. The motion passed 5/0; Eagy, Ercole, Gleason, Leash and McNary in favor, none opposed.

STAFF / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Senior Planner Hert is working on the list of HLC applications approved in the past few years.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, December 23, 2020. Commission consensus was to cancel the December meeting and schedule Goal Setting for the January 27, 2020 meeting.

Commissioner Gleason attended the virtual Certified Local Government (CLG) meeting. One topic was preservation plans for individual cities. A preservation plan for The Dalles may be something funded by a CLG grant.

Commissioner Ercole said he had not yet followed up with Commissioner Gleason regarding the Gitchell Building.

Commissioner Leash submitted three proposals to the City's 50/50 Sidewalk Program to replace portions of sidewalk around St. Peter's Landmark.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ercole and seconded by Leash to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Paula Webb, Secretary
Community Development Department


Robert McNary, Chair