

Briarwood Community Meeting July 10, 2013

Official Representatives in attendance:

City Councillor Eric Olauson - Chair

Alan Wallace – City of Saskatoon, Manager – Planning & Development

Daryl Godfrey – SaskTel Chief Technology Officer

Collen Glasser – SaskTel Director Technology (Planning & Support)

Rob Kaminski – SaskTel Corp Services Manager (Real Estate)

Approximately 53 people in attendance

Chair called the meeting to order and a presentation was made by Alan Wallace, Manager of Planning and Development with the City of Saskatoon on the city's Antenna Systems Policy. A document was shared with attendees that outlined the roles and process involved in the installation of antenna systems in the Saskatoon (see attached). The report states that approval is granted through Industry Canada, and is not granted by the City. However, Industry Canada grants municipalities the ability to establish protocol regarding when and how public consultation is to take place, and set proposal evaluation criteria prior to issuing a statement of concurrence or non-concurrence regarding a proposed antenna system. In January, Saskatoon changed its policy to better meet the needs of the expanding wireless communications industry, the public and the city. That new policy allows for construction of antenna-supporting structures less than 15 metres in height and located 30 metres or less from a site containing a residential dwelling unit without public consultation.

His presentation was followed by an explanation by SaskTel Chief Technology Officer Daryl Godfrey on how SaskTel worked with the city and within city policy to develop the new tower and how the tower location was chosen. SaskTel handed out a before and after map showing poor wireless coverage of the Briarwood community resulting in very low capacity and slow data speeds(see attached). SaskTel said it is working to build infrastructure within the City of Saskatoon to address customers' demand for wireless coverage. SaskTel chose a stealth pole for the area because it believes it fits better into a neighbourhood design; However SaskTel said the shorter poles need to be located in a prime location to serve an area adequately and efficiently. The location chosen for Briarwood was chosen because it was central and on a right of way with SaskTel fibre facilities in the area. SaskTel said it did review a number of options but could find no vacant properties within the area that the pole needed to be placed. Cost of a stealth pole is \$250,000, and moving the pole would cost approximately \$90,000. SaskTel said it is not considering moving or camouflaging the pole.

After the presentations, Councillor Olauson opened the meeting to community members to express concerns and ask questions:

**please note not all names were recorded and are left blank as a result

Jennifer Deppeler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was there no consultation? • Quoted and read from, Industry Canada Public Consultation policy. • Why was this policy not followed?
Ted Llewellyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tower looks like something from Siberia. Looks like a missile or a relic from the Cold War. • SaskTel not interested in Consultation process.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why locate in a Park? It is just wrong! Why was no common sense used in picking site?
John Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced himself as a Dundonald Resident, and said Dundonald had a cell tower installed 10 years ago by Mircocell. Microcell paid the Dundonald Community Assoc for the installation of a flag pole. Rogers took over and added to that tower without consulting community. • Council passed this consultation policy in January 2013 with no discussion with Community. • This was poorly handled by Council. Poorly picked location by SaskTel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why were there no other places to put it? SaskTel was avoiding consultation. Concerns expressed about the poor placement view and the kids play area.
James Leir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No dispute re: cell and poor cell coverage, but location picked (park area) was bad for the area. • Expressed preference for a 35m near the Briarwood Community Center building area away from lake area. • Is there any chance of relocating it to another spot in area?
Yvonne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funny to call it a stealth tower; there is nothing stealth about it. • Unsightly; it just looks bad. • Something needs to be done to move it. Dress it up. • If there are more towers coming, then this is going to cause more problems. Used example of palm trees in Phoenix. Camouflage it.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any health concerns?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the tower working? problems with coverage issues. • Speaker lives in the red area, so why the need for the tower? Why were no other locations checked? SaskTel should have looked for rooftops, collocation or other locations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much modelling was done before site was picked?
Jeff Jackson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks for coming here tonight. We need frankness here in moving the tower. • SaskTel is planning for 40 more sites in Saskatoon?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nothing short of moving it is acceptable
Kristine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make consultations mandatory for all tower locations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage for this area should have been located along 8th street & Briargate Road
Warren Davis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has been a loyal SaskTel customer for over 40 years. • Tower needs to be moved. • A Government phone company should represent the people the taxpayers of this province. How many more towers for the Briarwood area? • Suggested it is time to privatize SaskTel
Perry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New resident • Beautiful community, no schools, no malls, stores, and beautiful park area • No need for a tower in the beautiful neighborhood. • City needs to take a greater role on this
Councillor Olauson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re-stated that the tower policy was followed

addressed the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He said consulting on every project slows down the process, costs money and in the end the tower might not go ahead, which would not be good for the City • He said he would like to see this policy amended to include more consultations. More robust consult is maybe required by the City?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My house just went down in value by \$150,000 with this tower going up
Jennifer Deppeler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked for screening done to tower location with trees and shrubs. • Questions about environmental assessment. Questions on geese flying into the tower. Suggested contacting Environmental agencies and the Wildlife Federation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety issue on right of way; Someone will hit the pole. It will not move like a light pole
John Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Canada regulates the towers. • Will we be adding to the overall height in future? Rogers added to the Dundonald pole with no Community approval. More screening required. Why did we not negotiate with Rogers? Nothing is going to happen here based on past experiences in Dundonald with Rogers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 1800 area residents at \$150 per month; that is \$270,000 in lost services by cancelling your Max, phone, cells, and internet. SaskTel should add this up first and move the tower it will be cheaper
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City needs to assign lots for cell towers in new subdivisions before area is built. City needs to address this as we bought lots here then the tower comes in afterwards. • My taxes are \$12,500 that is paid to the City. This is one of the highest taxed areas of the City. Maybe my taxes should now go down?
Alan Wallace, City of Saskatoon	Addressed the Existing Consultation Policy details. In summary, consultation for a pole less than 15m is only required where the pole is less than 30m from a residential property. In this case, no consultation was required.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On a go forward basis, the City needs more consultations. City does not have regulating authority. City should send a letter to Minister of SaskTel requesting more consultation. • Request for SaskTel to communicate to Briarwood on remedies for this location
Chad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community not consulted at all. There is room for improvement in the City policy regarding consultations • Tower should be located on the Golf course • Site location was decision is based on cost and ease of installation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right of Way is owned by whom? No lease for this land area?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wallace Construction had an issue and resulted in SaskTel is paying good lease rate so there can be positive outcomes
Alan Wallace City of Saskatoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested the City's consultation policy could be amended to require consultation where poles are either in parks or close to parks. • This change would require City Council approval. • This option will be provided to the City's Planning and Operations Committee as early as August 13th • Added that additional processes like this add time and cost for business, but are sometimes necessary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services close by is an excuse, SaskTel should be a good neighbor and take it down. SaskTel steamed rolled over the Community.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community needs to deal with the City and SaskTel to help resolve this. Community must explore options and go to the wall with this. Everyone should lobby SaskTel, Provincial Govt, etc

Councillor Olauson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed desire to work with the community and listen to everyone`s concerns He encouraged residents to contact him
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wants fair value on assessment on taxes; 2012 assessment needs to be reviewed Taxes re: the negatives in the area, algae on the lake stinks, it looks bad, too many geese, too much goose poop
Cam Rosen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities location in Briarwood was a matter of convenience and location for SaskTel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestions for city policy going forward: What is allowed and not allowed? Policy should include other things as well. Is it the best spot i.e.: Lake/Park? Technical reasons aside, is it a good place for the stealth pole? Consulting should be done in advance. Consider other standards. no common sense used here. It looks bad.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cell coverage is a plus to the area Should have been located near the Park building City should have considered this
Jennifer Deppeler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraged everyone to write letters to the Premier, President of SaskTel, Minister of SaskTel, Federal Minister of Industry Canada opposing this tower in Briarwood
Ted Llewellyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asked that residents have an opportunity to vote on a referendum Offered his engineering services to instruct SaskTel on how to use street light antennae at a cost of \$1000 per hour
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed frustration that the tower is 30m from a Park area and did not require consultation SaskTel will do this all over the City, we need to stand up and stop this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the long term health effects of cell towers in an area?

Councillor Olauson concluded the meeting with saying he was available to help the residents of Briarwood but said moving or camouflaging were not options. He took a number of action items back with him to work on including having City Administration review the policy and possibly tighten up the rules.

Meeting concluded with Councillor Olauson thanking community members and SaskTel representatives for attending.