



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE PLANNING, ZONING, AND HISTORICAL APPROPRIATENESS COMMISSION

JOINT WORK SESSION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022 – 4:30 PM

MINUTES

TRUSTEES: Nora Barraza, Mayor
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem
Biviana Cadena, Trustee
Veronica Garcia, Trustee
Adrianna Merrick, Trustee

PZHAC: Yolanda Lucero, Chairperson
Danny Jones, Commissioner
Jerry Nevarez, Commissioner
Davie Salas, Commissioner (Absent)
Eric Walkinshaw, Commissioner

STAFF: Rani Bush, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director
Gloria Maya, Recorder

PUBLIC:

1. Discussion on PZHAC Rules of Procedure and Mesilla Town Code (MTC) Chapter 18 Zoning – Board of Trustees & Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission
Mayor Barraza stated the PZHAC had requested a joint worksession to discuss the roles of the commission.

Commissioner Walkinshaw stated his concern on why cases approved by the PZHAC were tabled by the Board of Trustees. The reason given was the request for more information. He is not sure how much information is included in the minutes. He approves a case if it meets the ordinance or code.

Mayor Barraza stated we do not have the technology to do verbatim. The Community Development Coordinator is responsible for recording the minutes. The NMML has always said to keep the minutes brief. Roll call votes are recorded into the minutes. She understands that their vote is based on them doing their homework. The cases were tabled due to the trustees needing more information. She does not know why all the cases were tabled. She asked that the coordinator prepare a more detail Board Action Form.

Commissioner Nevarez stated he approaches the cases using the training received at the NMML. Packets should be complete when presented to the PZHAC. He understood the rationale why cases were tabled due to lack of information. You cannot make decisions you cannot defend. Concerned with liability issues.

Chairperson Lucero stated we take our cases seriously. When the board tabled all the cases, we felt that our work was not valued. Things are done with good faith. The Architectural Style Committee looks carefully through all the paperwork submitted. If they do not trust our work, then the Board of Trustees should take that on. We are here to work as a team.

Commissioner Jones stated he agrees with the commissioners. He was frustrated with the regulations regarding Cannabis and the distances.

Mayor Barraza stated we listen to PZHAC and how we can do better. There is a need to incorporate the state regulations into our ordinances.

Chairperson Lucero stated we were made to feel incompetent, and our work is not valued.

Mayor Barraza stated the board appreciates hearing from the commissioners. In the past, the board was given a detailed Board Action Form.

Chairperson Lucero stated commissioners are called by name and announce their reason and vote; she does not know what is done on the administrative side.

Commissioner Nevarez stated we could improve on efficiency. Recommended making a fillable online form. Packets should be complete before moving forward which often causes the case to be delayed. Recommended a checklist which would make it easier for the applicant.

Mayor Barraza agreed that staff needs to ensure that packets are complete before being presented to the commission. When there is not a quorum, applicants are asking if there can be a proxy or an alternate so that the cases move forward. She has not heard of that happening. It is important that commissioners become familiar with the ordinances so decisions can be based on that. Mr. Maese has provided direction and answers.

Chairperson Lucero stated we do not discuss anything among ourselves, we make our own decisions.

Mr. Maese stated there are some changes needed to be done to the ordinances, i.e., change in verbiage. The Cannabis ordinances change daily. He looks at Mesilla cases as an outside person, not as a commissioner. There are applications brought to the Architectural Style Committee which are incomplete. There is a need to review the packets before they are pushed through. Also, some cases should be reviewed for Administrative Approvals to move them forward. The concern with electronic submission is that it could cause delays in processing the application. Staff should have the opportunity to review the packet with the applicant when they turn it in to point out what is missing and ask questions. The Architectural Style Committee was designed to streamline the application process.

Mayor Barraza stated Mr. Maese's participation and knowledge is appreciated.

Trustee Merrick stated PZHAC, the Architectural Style Committee and the Town Clerk are important to the process. It was not that we did not trust the PZHAC when the cases were tabled but we were trying to figure out the process and get clarification. They are concerned when cases are brought to the Board of Trustees with no documentation regarding conditions placed by the PZHAC. She apologized to the applicants for holding them up. We are trying to fix things while we are making decision which causes confusion all around. We need to pay attention to the issue of a liability. A lot of work went into the Cannabis ordinance, and it will continue to be revisited as we move forward. Regarding technology, Zoom is now part of the process. Agrees there should be a checklist to help things move forward. She looks at continuing our history while still taking care of business.

Commissioner Walkinshaw asked what the process is to discuss ordinance changes.

Mayor Barraza responded the process is in the book.

Trustee Merrick stated there are three PZHAC seats that need to be reappointed.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick read correspondence.

Chairperson Lucero stated she understood the tabling of the case with a 3-2 vote, but the other cases were a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated some of the approved cases had conditions but were not on the Board Action Form.

Chairperson Lucero stated it is not the fault of the applicant if information is left out by staff.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick responded that could be a liability.

Chairperson Lucero stated then maybe PZHAC should not place conditions.

Mayor Barraza stated those conditions should be on the Board Action Form.

Commissioner Walkinshaw stated sometimes we receive a window change application and we do not even know what the window change is going to be.

Mayor Barraza explained the process and Mr. Maese's roll when an application has been approved.

Mr. Maese stated CID looks for conditions on the approved application from Mesilla. Problems arise when those conditions are not listed. Board Action Forms need to be included in the paperwork submitted to CID.

Trustee Garcia stated she did not receive Commissioner Walkinshaw's email. The Architectural Style Committee discusses conditions so when cases come forth from PZHAC she looks for those conditions. The board appreciates everything the PZHAC does. Cannabis is a learning process.

Chairperson Lucero stated it was not right to have tabled all the cases because you say that what you do for one you do for all.

Trustee Garcia stated we were not given enough information.

Mayor Barraza stated when she asked the board why the cases were tabled, and she was told it was due to lack of information.

Trustee Garcia stated staff fixed the problem.

Trustee Cadena stated ordinances are hard and need to be tweaked as time go on. The town needs to be kept historic. Everything was on the consent agenda; approval with one vote. Cannabis cases need to be researched. The town needs to present a fair, transparent process. We do not want to do things that make it difficult for people to live in Mesilla. She hears residents want to be treated fairly. Applicants that meet the ordinances should be approved. The problem is some are based on interpretation. The ordinances must be followed. Read section regarding PZHAC duties and powers. If we fill there needs to be change then it should be done. She would appreciate specific information being on the Board Action Form. Residents expect us to do right by them.

Chairperson Lucero stated she has been a commissioner for six years and will serve as long as she needs to. She has asked around to see who wants to serve on the commission with no avail. Her question is what our vision for the Town of Mesilla is. Items can be pulled from the consent agenda to be discussed at any time.

Commission Walkinshaw stated properties are being bought for Short-Term Rentals and there is nothing in the ordinance or codes regarding Short-Term Rentals.

Mayor Barraza stated Short-Term Rentals are allowed only in the Historic Residential and Historic Commercial Zone.

Trustee Merrick stated they are not allowed in the RF or RA Zone.

Commissioner Walkinshaw stated a Bed and Breakfast stay is up to 14 days.

Mayor Barraza stated we will schedule another worksession. Consent Agenda items can be removed for further discussion. Thanked the PZHAC for their commitment. The Architectural Style Committee reviews the applications; it is up to the PZHAC to accept their recommendations. We cannot make everyone happy. Residents will not attend meetings if they are content with the way things are going in Mesilla. Recommended coming up with a Town of Mesilla mission statement. Let her know what they need from staff. People get upset when they do not get what they want.

Chairperson Lucero stated we need to work together as we are in it for the same cause.

Closed Worksession at 6:02 p.m.



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022 – 6:00 PM
MINUTES

TRUSTEES: Nora Barraza, Mayor
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem
Biviana Cadena, Trustee
Veronica Garcia, Trustee
Adrianna Merrick, Trustee

STAFF: Rani Bush, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Ben Azcarate, Lieutenant
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director
Enrique Salas, Marshal
Gloria Maya, Recorder

PUBLIC:

Eric Walkinshaw	Yolanda Lucero
Trina Witter	Janice Cook
Bill Cook	Catherine Walkinshaw
Mary H. Ratje	Guillermo Acosta
Andy Embury	Cole Morris
Jackie Kiefer	Elva Ostermeed
Harry Evans	Vivian Fietze
D Gantz	Oscar Fietze
Greg Lester	Cecilia Quintana
Nancy D	Renee Beltran
Andrea Began	Paul Germani
Jane Germani	Norm Fristoe
John Clayshulte	Kathy Clayshulte
Pamela Hunt	David Klahr
Carol McCall	Greg Whited
Crystal Whited	Jasha Zapien

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson-Burick, Trustee Cadena, Trustee Garcia, Trustee Merrick.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA & APPROVAL

Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Merrick Yes

4. PUBLIC INPUT – The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes.

Mayor Barraza changed the time limit to 2 minutes to give everyone the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Lester see attached correspondence

Ms. Bryan see attached correspondence

Ms. Walkinshaw see attached correspondence

Mr. Germani stated the location of the proposed tower will not impact him. He feels it will make a mockery of the historic district and therefore opposes the tower.

Ms. Ratje stated she has an issue with the time limit being changed to 2 minutes. Also, in the past they have been allowed to yield their time to others.

Mayor Barraza stated it was clarified with the attorney that she does not need to allow the yielding of time.

Ms. Ratje stated that was a bad idea and strongly objects to the tower.

Mr. Cook read correspondence; asked that they reconsider the location.

Trustee Garcia stated the approved agenda stated a 3-minute timeframe.

Mayor Barraza thanked Trustee Garcia for her comments.

Ms. Wittern read correspondence; town needs to follow its ordinance. She asks that the board listen to its residents.

Ms. McCall asked if Verizon has conducted an Environmental Review. She can provide references for articles to address resident's concerns. She asked if there are criteria that allows the town to be exempt.

Ms. Beltran stated she moved to Mesilla as a safe refuge for her family. People use the park next to the Public Safety Building on a regular basis. This tower will change the ambience of the town and the use of the park.

Mr. Acosta stated however the tower is disguised it will be noticed as well as the constant hum and sometimes a strobe light. We need to keep Mesilla's charm intact and not allow cell towers.

Ms. Cook stated she opposes the tower. She respects Mayor Barraza and all she has done for Mesilla. During Mayor Barraza's campaign she said she would work to preserve the history of Mesilla. She wants her to do what she promised.

Mr. Embury stated he took an oath to protect the lives and property in Mesilla. As a firefighter they use their cell phones for everything when it comes to saving a life. Equipment used during an emergency need cell service.

Mr. Fristoe stated the tower would destroy the ambience of Mesilla. He gets good reception, and he lives across the street.

Mr. Clayshulte state he would not like a tower next to him.

Ms. Goodman stated she does not want to see the cell tower for all the reason being expressed. Encouraged the board to find another location that would be more suitable.

- 5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** (The Board will be asked to approve by one motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked with an asterisk *)

Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes
Trustee Merrick Yes

- a) ***BOT MINUTES** - Minutes of Regular Meeting, October 24, 2022 *Approved by consent agenda*

6. PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. McGillivray stated this is to replace the utilities on Calle de Picacho and the need for an ordinance required by New Mexico Environmental Department.

Motion: To close Regular Meeting and enter Public Hearing, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

- a) **Ordinance 2022-01:** \$411,633 Loan Agreement with the New Mexico Environment Department for the Calle de Picacho Utility Replacement Project (RIP 00040)

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes
Trustee Merrick Yes

Entered Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m.

No Public Input

Motion: To close Public Hearing and enter Regular Meeting, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Merrick.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =4).

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Merrick Yes

Entered Regular Meeting at 6:34 p.m.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: To close Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session for discussion:

- a) Discussion concerning purchase, acquisition, or disposal of real property or water rights pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(8)
- b) Discussion concerning attorney/client privilege matters pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7)
- c) Discussion concerning Admin./Finance Department Job Descriptions pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2)

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =4).

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Merrick Yes

Entered Executive Session at 6:35 p.m.

Motion: To enter Regular Meeting after limited discussion during Executive Session; no action taken:

- d) Discussion concerning purchase, acquisition, or disposal of real property or water rights pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(8)
- e) Discussion concerning attorney/client privilege matters pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7)
- f) Discussion concerning Admin./Finance Department Job Descriptions pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2)

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =4).

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Merrick Yes

Entered Regular Meeting at 8:17 p.m.

8. STAFF REPORTS

- a) Loan Agreement with the New Mexico Environment Department for the Calle de Picacho Utility Replacement Project - Rod McGillivray

Ms. Bush read summary of Ordinance 2022-01.

Mayor Barraza asked for clarification regarding Ms. Bush stated the loan was \$511,633 but the item reads \$411,633.

Ms. Bush responded the town was give a grant of \$100,000 to help pay the loan making the payback amount \$411,633.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **For Approval: Ordinance 2022-01:** \$411,633 Loan Agreement with the New Mexico Environment Department for the Calle de Picacho Utility Replacement Project (RIP 00040)

Motion: To approve Ordinance 2022-01: \$411,633 Loan Agreement with the New Mexico Environment Department for the Calle de Picacho Utility Replacement Project (RIP 00040), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Trustee Garcia asked if we received Capital Outlay funds.

Mr. McGillivray responded we received Capital Outlay funds for Calle de Picacho Drainage Improvement Project only, funding for the road replacement is from the Project Transportation Fund.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes
Trustee Merrick Yes

- b) **For Approval:** Resolution 2022-17 RIP 00040 Signatory

Ms. Bush stated this is to decide who will be the signatory on the loan which will be Mayor Barraza as the mayor and her as the Clerk/Treasurer official and signatory authority.

Motion: To approve Resolution 2022-17 RIP 00040 Signatory, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Merrick.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes
Trustee Merrick Yes

- c) **For Approval:** Admin./Finance Department Job Descriptions

Motion: To approve Admin./Finance Department Job Descriptions, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Merrick.

Trustee Garcia asked for which positions are these job descriptions. Thanked Ms. Bush and Trustee Merrick for their hard work in putting these together.

Mayor Barraza responded the job descriptions are for the positions of Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, File Clerk, and Utility Clerk/Receptionist.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =4).

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Merrick Yes

10. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Merrick: attended MPO meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: attended MPO meeting

Trustee Garcia: did not attend the Workforce Solutions meeting

Mayor Barraza: attended MPO meeting, attended Public Hearing on Verizon tower, attended Veteran's Day Ceremony

11. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS

(Written staff reports included in packet)

Lieutenant Azcarate stated Officer Diaz has been promoted to Sergeant.

Mr. Evans stated we had a good turnout at Fire Chief Hoban's retirement reception.

Trustee Garcia stated donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets need to be brought to the town hall by Wednesday. She would like numbers on staff increases at the next meeting since they were not provided at this meeting as requested. She told the residents that the board hears the residents concerns regarding the cell tower.

Trustee Cadena stated she appreciates the residents' views and opinions.

Trustee Merrick stated the Veteran's Day Ceremony was very nice, thanked Andele's for providing lunch to the veterans. We are taking all the public input into consideration. Ms. Bush is doing a great job. She would also like to see the pay increase numbers at the next meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she received positive comments regarding the Halloween Carnival. The Veteran's Day Ceremony is special to her. Thanked the residents for providing input.

Mayor Barraza stated there was a mandatory staff meeting with Dr. Zamora last Thursday. The Thanksgiving Baskets will be distributed on Wednesday, Hillrise Elementary students will be touring Mesilla on Thursday. There have been several positive comments regarding the Halloween Carnival. Ms. Bush did have the pay increase numbers. She understood that the numbers would be provided and not an action item on the agenda. Other budget items will be discussed in closed session. Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th. The next Board of Trustees meeting will November 28th. Thanked all the residents for providing their comments and participation.

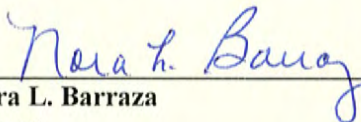
Board of Trustees wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-4).


MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:34 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 28TH TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.



Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:



Rani Bush
Town Clerk/Treasurer



Hello my name is Andrea Bryan and I live at 2557 Calle de Parian across from the proposed location of the Verizon cell tower.

For those of you who do not know, this proposed 60 foot structure will be in a park. The Town Hall Park, with picnic tables and playground equipment. Families from other areas, often come to the park, especially at Easter to picnic and enjoy a day with their children and relatives. Imagine pulling up to a park you and your family have enjoyed in the past and find a 60ft cell tower adjacent to playground equipment. Would you stay? I think not.

Why? Because the science is still be studied regarding electromagnetic radiation even though companies say it is currently not harmful.... which brings me to the following.

Wireless companies are self insured. Why is that?

I will share some information from the Environmental Health Trust dated Feb 26, 2022 where Verizon warns shareholders of risk of lawsuits due to health effects.

Quote:

These warnings are contained in annual reports by other companies as well; AT&T, Vodaphone and Crowm Castle.

Why do they warn their shareholders of the risk of cell phone and cell tower radiation but do not warn people living in homes near cell towers or those residents in 'potential' cell tower location?

In the same article insurance companies rank 5G and electromagnetic radiation as a 'high risk' comparing the issue to lead and asbestos.

This is why insurance companies will not insure them.

Please leave our Town Hall Park a place where families can gather safely.

Thank you

My name is Greg Lester, I live at 2657 Calle de Parian right across the street from Town Hall park. The proposed Verizon cell tower is located approximately 70 feet from the N.W. corner of our property. The middle of Calle de Parian, next to the proposed cell tower is well within the "fall zone" of said tower.

We purchased our home 5 1/2 years ago, delighted to find ourselves in a proud historical community dedicated to the aesthetic values of the town. We have added landscaping, including evergreens, renovated, restituted, always secured the necessary permits from the town of Mesa to be approved to fit in with our surrounding neighbors & their priorities.

Had we known the town of Mesa was going to propose putting a 60' tower designed to look like a monopine (whatever that is) in front of our house we would ~~have~~^{never} have considered the location.

Today, the US Dept of Housing (HUD) considers cell towers as QUOTE "HAZARDOUS AND NUISANCES."

The national institute for science, LAND & PUBLIC POLICY WROTE A REPORT CALLED "NEIGHBORHOOD CELL TOWERS AND AUTOMATAS - DO THEY IMPACT A PROPERTY'S DESIRABILITY?" IN IT THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT HOME BUYERS AND REALTORS ARE MUCH LESS INTERESTED IN PROPERTIES NEAR A CELL TOWER.

94 PERCENT OF HOME BUYERS AND REALTORS SAID A NEARBY CELL TOWER WOULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT INTEREST IN A PROPERTY & THE PRICE THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY FOR IT. Documented price drops over 20% is found in multiple surveys and published articles.

These Verizon cell towers are required to have back up diesel generators installed as back up power systems in case of power outages. They are also ~~equipped~~ tested weekly (running 1 hour each test). The property is accessible 24/7 7 days a week 365 days a year. The cell phone towers require plenty of maintenance workers generally work better to be a 24 hour a day of the day.

we call upon the Mesilla Board of Trustees and
the mayor of Mesilla, to reconsider the proposed location
of the Verizon cell tower at the town hall park,

I ask you to close your eyes and imagine this tower
across from your home. Please don't let that happen to any of us.
-Thank you

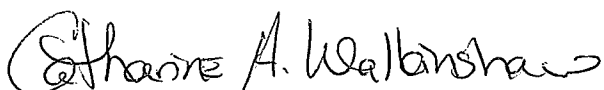
COMMENTS TO THE MESILLA BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT 11/14/22 MEETING

Approving this 5G Cell Tower sets a dangerous precedent for the Mesilla Historic District. It will be 60 feet tall, poorly disguised as an evergreen tree, with potential for cautionary lighting, a generator that will hum when running, an 8-foot perimeter wall surrounding 25 square feet around the tower, possible metal fencing and/or barbed wire. And it is proposed to be sited right inside a public park and within very close proximity to several residences.

If this is pushed through by the Mayor and the Board of Trustees, it won't be the last tower. Verizon and other cell companies will want more. The health impacts are not yet fully understood since this technology is so new. But we have heard this before from companies and the government, not to worry that there are no concerns with the radiation emitted. My grandfather lived in southern Utah and was told that about the nuclear testing in Nevada. He died of Leukemia as did several of his neighbors. In addition, as I understand it, Verizon's insurance provider refuses to cover any health impacts from their cell towers. That alone says a lot. If there is a tower placed in that public park, I would not feel safe bringing any children or any person to that park regardless if Verizon puts in new playground equipment.

Studies show that property values decrease anywhere from 7 to 20% when cell towers are placed in a residential area. I strongly feel that the health and safety of our community is not worth the money Verizon has pledged to pay the Town of Mesilla if it is sited on public lands. Surely there are other, safer locations for this tower outside the Historic District and away from densely populated areas.

Respectfully submitted,



Catharine Walkinshaw

2134 Calle de Principal

Mesilla, NM 88046

575 932 8313

catharinewalkinshaw@gmail.com