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Local News

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Last Updated: 1:53 am | Monday, March 17, 2008

Cell tower proposal meets with opposition

BY FORREST SELLERS | FSSELLERS@COMMUNITYPRESS.COM

ANDERSON TWP. - A cell tower proposal for Johnson Park has some residents ready to hang up.

Although representatives for the Anderson Park District have said the tower will provide revenue for the district, residents have expressed concerns about the environmental impact.

The park district has signed a contract with Arcadia Communications, which would allow a tower to be erected at Johnson Park. However, Arcadia will still need to get zoning approval from Anderson Township.

An application with the township has not been filed yet.

"The park district felt it was minimally intrusive to the park in the neighborhood and was a great source of income for the park district," said Dale Bartholomew, chair of the Anderson Park District Board of Commissioners.

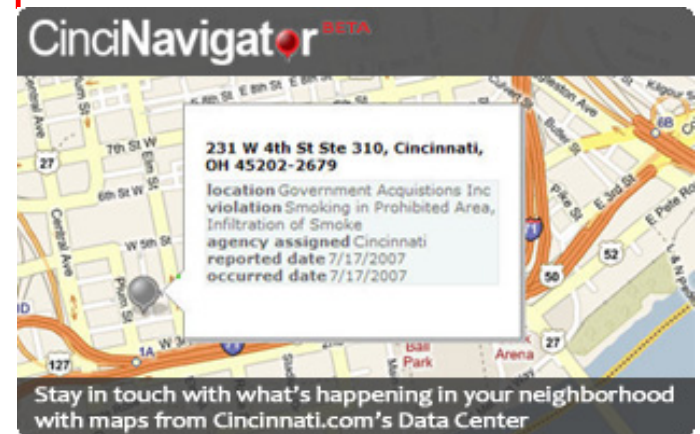
Bartholomew said the park district could receive more than \$1 million in revenue.

However, Barry Peterson, a resident who lives adjacent to the park, said a cell tower would be detrimental to the surrounding area.

"I hardly think installing a cell tower in our park adds to the beauty of the natural environment," he said.

Some opponents have also questioned the involvement of an Anderson Park District park commissioner with Arcadia Communications.

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Cell tower discussion

The Anderson Park District will have an open meeting to discuss the cell tower at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, at Beech Acres Park Recplex, 6881 Beechmont Ave.

Mark Bissinger, an attorney with Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, said he formerly represented several employees currently with Arcadia Communications.

However, Bissinger said he has clearly stated his previous connection at meetings and has recused himself from any voting or board discussions on the matter, nor has he been involved in any of the transactions.

An open meeting will be 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, at Beech Acres Park Recplex.

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