

Data Center Ordinance Advisory Group Meeting Notes

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Meeting Location: Development Services Building, Room 107

1. Team Check-in

- a. Dale – Amazon is running about 10 decibels less than it was last year and are getting good feedback from community. They are doing a noise study next week.
- b. Discussion about a recent situation with Stanley Martin where a picture of a college campus was used to depict Devlin Technology Park in a community survey. There was concern about ethics and deception by Stanley Martin using the photo. The discussion brought up whether Truett Young should remain in this group, as he works for Stanley Martin.
 - i. Truett explained that the consultant Stanley Martin used was trying to convey the way of technology with that photo, but the photo should not have been used. Stanley Martin is continuing to do community outreach throughout the project.
 - ii. The scope of this group is to discuss changing County ordinances regarding data centers. While the BOCS did not assign specific people from each industry to be in this group, each industry chose a member to represent them, so we will not be removing a member due to an issue outside of the scope of the group.

2. Review the Noise Ordinance SOW subgroup report

- a. Dale led the discussion and provided a PDF to share with the group along with the subgroup document.
- b. We need to define “best practices” in our own way to determine how we measure it.
- c. The approach for this SOW is different because we are using a consultant that we already have on contract instead of putting out an RFP. The County will reach out to the revolving list of noise consultants to see what their capabilities are based off our scope of work, then they will each provide a cost estimate.
- d. The County will ask each consultant if they have any affiliations/connections with current data center projects and/or experience in this area. This will be handled on the contractual level.
- e. We can focus on specific noise issues/certain aspects of noise activity that are unique to data centers, but we cannot specifically say “data centers” in the ordinance. We also need to ensure that the wording does not result in unintended consequences for other industries such as schools, grocery stores, etc.
- f. Will this be a completely new ordinance, or will the changes be to certain sections of the current noise ordinance?
 - i. It will most likely be an adapted policy to address the issues and change some of the language in the current policy.
 - ii. Rewriting the entire ordinance would be a longer process than making edits to the current ordinance.
- g. We need to reference in this SOW that the Consultant should refer to our group’s “Data Center Impacts Brainstorming Document”.

- h. How will we handle the fact that the group will continue to meet and discuss with the consultant during this time and any delays this may cause?
 - i. We can accommodate this both ways.
 - i. We will specify to the consultant from the beginning that the tasks are sequential, so they must get through one before moving to another task.
 - j. Discussion about the amount and type of community meetings
 - i. The group decided to have one meeting at a centralized location in the County to accommodate east and west end residents. There will also be a virtual option.
 - k. Staff will be using the consultant's presentation to present this information to industry organizations such as CDC, NAIOP, NVBIA, etc.
- 3. We did not get to the Landscaping/Buffers/Berms Interim Standards Discussion. Ben will lead the discussion at the next meeting.**
- 4. We did not get to discuss current noise consultant list and possible presentations from consultants. This will be addressed at the next meeting.**
- 5. The group agreed that we need to change the November 22 meeting, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We will discuss the logistics at the next meeting.**
- 6. Meeting Adjourned**