

Kentfield Planning Advisory Board

P.O. Box 304, Kentfield, California 94914

Meeting 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, College of Marin Administration Bldg.

Minutes of October 24, 2012

Anne Petersen called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in COM administration building. Other members present: Alan Derwin, Sandy Guldman, Pam Scott.

October 10, 2012 Minutes. M/S (Sandy) and unanimously approved to accept with one change: delete "is a concern" from 1st line in paragraph beginning "Board comments/concerns"

Marin Catholic High School Design Review/Lighting System (Greeley)

(Guests: Marin Catholic President Tim Navone; Glenn Isaacson and Peter McDonnell of CMA (Conversion Management Associates); Chris Ford of BRW Architects in San Francisco, and Bob Crookham of Musco Lighting in El dorado Hills; also Greenbrae residents Suzanne Fogarty (Corte Balboa), Sarah and John Holzwarth (Corte Elena), Larry Mansbach (Almenar Drive), Jim McClellan (Corte Balboa), Judy Mesinger (Almenar Drive), Jennifer Skinner (Via Cheparro), David Sternberg (Via La Paz), Jack Valinoti (Altura Way); and Michael M. Ghilotti, Kentfield.

Mr. Ford gave an overview of the proposed bleacher/grandstand and new speaker and lighting systems as Greenbrae neighbors attending this meeting had not heard an earlier presentation.

Mr. Valinoti, Greenbrae Property Owners Association (GPOA) president, said information on the project was received by the group after the comment deadline. He and two other GPOA board members, Mr. Sternberg who was present, and Ron Puloso who was not at this meeting, comprise a three person review committee for county applications.

At their prior meeting the KPAB recommended approval of the bleacher/grandstand/speaker system but deferred a recommendation on the lighting system until members could view a comparable system in use. Three board members – Anne, Dale Hansen and Eva Long – visited, during the evening hours of last week, the football field at Montgomery High in Santa Rosa which has a similar system to what is proposed. Dale and Eva were absent but Anne summarized their comments and her own from emails they sent to other board members:

- Eva noted that the area surrounding Montgomery was flat with nearby commercial buildings, not the same character as the residential area near Marin Catholic. As she approached she said the lights from a distance appeared to be fairly bright, typical of an athletic field. Closer to the field, the lights were more muted and shining down on the field.
- Dale also noted that the physical layout of the neighborhood is quite different than Marin Catholic's, with few houses surrounding the campus. She found the lights intense, with a lower light addressing the circling area with good "down" coverage.
- Anne agreed the lights at Montgomery did a good job directing light only on the field, but she was surprised by the lighting intensity on top of the four tall standards.

Mr. Crookham of Musco Lighting, contractor for the proposed system, which was intended for up to 10 nighttime games each year, also described the proposed lighting (4 lights on 80 foot poles), and showed guests a fixture that was similar to what is proposed. He noted that the glare from the fixtures can be adjusted by varying the width of the visor that overhangs the lighting and helps define its direction. The Montgomery field lights, he said, have seven inch visors while the proposed Marin Catholic fixtures would have 14 inch visors, reducing glare about 50 percent.

Sandy asked if it were possible to have more lighting standards, perhaps six instead of four, and if doing so would allow the standards to be lower than the 80 feet proposed.

Comments by several people indicated that their major concern may be not the lighting so much as the noise from the game, including from the band and attending crowd - elements which they said they do not find a problem during Saturday morning games but would have concerns about at night.

Mr. and Mrs. Holzwarth said they can hear activity at the games inside their house with doors and windows closed, which they believe is caused more by the attending crowd than the public address system. They are concerned that if the games were at night this would disrupt family routines such as getting young children in bed. Suzanne Fogarty said she does not believe there is a precedent for high school night games in Marin County as there is in other counties and she does not support the lighting component of the application.

Jennifer Skinner said she supported the night game program to provide youngsters with a positive activity on a weekend evening and she thought the game program at Albert Field in San Rafael had worked out well. Mr. Ghilotti, who is a parent of students at Marin Catholic, spoke to how the night games could provide a secure and attractive Friday night activity for high schoolers.

MC President Tim Navone said the school saw the Friday night football as a “community builder,” a time when the school, including students and parents, could gather as a community. He is hopeful that the night games would increase attendance. Tim said Marin Catholic would be willing to sign a memorandum of understanding limiting the number of night games to 10 games a year.

Anne Petersen read two letters supporting approval of the new bleachers that the KPAB had received from the Marin County Deputy Sheriffs and the principal at Bacich Elementary School. Bacich has an agreement with Marin Catholic to share Bacich parking spaces when there are evening athletic events.

Anne also reported that the County Community Development Agency issued an incomplete notice to Marin Catholic for the proposed project, and stated that the KPAB would have this item on the agenda again when the application was completed.

Adjourned at 9:25 PM

Minutes: A. Thomas