

Kentfield Planning Advisory Board

P.O. Box 304, Kentfield, California 94914

Minutes of November 18, 2020

Anne Petersen called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. via video conferencing from individual locations. Other board members also present: Bitsa Freeman, Julie Johnson, Neil Park, Pam Scott. Guests are listed by project.

Minutes of October 14, 2020. M/S (Neil/Julie) and unanimously approved as submitted.

Archdiocese of San Francisco (Marin Catholic) Temporary Use Permit (Sihakom) (Guests: Marin Catholic Assistant Principal for Athletics Trevor Smyth, representing the applicant. Also residents including: George and Dara Baranoff, Keri Brenner, Alison Crawford, Brendan Fogarty, John Hozwarth, Noreen Kimmelman, Larry Mansbach, Jim McClellan, Judy Messnger, Zigmund and Alisa Rubel, Angela Windy.

Mr. Smyth said Marin Catholic is using a hybrid instruction program at this time, with half the students on campus Monday and Tuesday, the other half on Thursday and Friday, with Wednesday use for a variety of other student and administrative activities. The school's application to allow early evening field lighting he said was made in response to adjustments in the school's schedules for sports teams brought about by the current public health restrictions, and would be a two-year permit.

Board members clarified that the posted application stated it would apply only for November 2, 2020 to March 12, 2021, a 19 week period in the current school year. .

Mr. Smyth's comments included the following:

- The application would renew the exiting permit with an adjustment for the virus.
- Due to the pandemic, all school sports are condensed into a spring time period.
- The extended field use during the daylight savings period would enable the field to be a practice space for the school's multiple sports.
- The practice time would be for calisthenics workouts, similar exercises, and team bonding; no contact sports would be played.
- There would not be any late night games.
- Students need to be outside and have interaction.
- The school would follow county health safety guidelines.

Letters opposing approval of the application had been received from Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed, and residents Alisa Rubel, Ron Naso, and John Hozwarth.

Among issues raised by guests at the meeting were concerns about impacts of lighting and noise on surrounding neighborhoods and on Creekside marsh wildlife.

Comments from guests included the following:

- The prudence of group activity such as sport practices was questioned.
- The school should consider scheduling the field practice on Wednesdays.
- One neighbor noted that a regional high school football schedule indicated that there would be a night game at Marin Catholic on January 29. (Mr. Smyth said this was not definite.)
- The application's operational instructions information sheet incorrectly stated that "temporary lights have been utilized without incident or complaint throughout the entirety of their use," but that there have been numerous complaints made to the school about the lighting activity impacts.
- Why not practice from 3 to 5 PM, as well as before 7 AM?
- Early spring is breeding and nesting season for many wildlife, including endangered species observed at Creekside marsh. Would the lighting proposed meet State Fish and Wildlife guidelines for avoiding disturbance to affected species at this time?
- This is not a renewal of the prior permit which was for five weeks whereas this is for 19 weeks.
- Are there traffic impacts to be considered due to the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard upgrade work, or any possibility of fire during high winds from the mobile lights?

Recommendation. A motion was made and approved on a 3-2 vote to recommend approval of the temporary use permit as it is stated in the CDA transmittal: to allow the use of a temporary lighting system on Marin Catholic High School's outdoor football field during evening weekday football practice for a period commencing November 2, 2020 (coinciding with the end of daylight savings time) and ending no later than March 12, 2021. Board also recommends that CDA insure that the permit is in compliance with any requirements regarding breeding/nesting season affecting species at Creekside Park and marsh. (Ayes: Freeman, Johnson, Petersen. Nays: Park and Scott)

KPAB board members stressed that the allowance for evening lighting is due to circumstances related to the COVID crisis and should not be considered a precedent for future school years.

Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes: Ann Thomas