

PLANNING COMMISSION

Agenda Item No.: H.1 Date: Dec. 13, 2011

TO:

Planning Commission

FROM:

Planning Staff

SUBJECT:

Calvin Christian High School - Athletic Field Lights

2000 North Broadway (PHG 08-0018)

BACKGROUND:

On November 22, 2011, the Planning Commission held their second discussion related to the athletic field lighting at Calvin Christian High School and the Notice of Violation that had been issued by the city's Code Enforcement Division. During the Planning Commission meeting, staff noted the landscaping and noise issues had been resolved and the only remaining issue related to the Notice of Violation was the installation of the light shields. The Calvin Christian School Board President stated the shields had been installed that afternoon and would soon be tested. The Commission asked staff to visit the site and assess the effectiveness of the new shields in reducing light spillover and glare in the adjacent neighborhood. The Commission further requested that staff report back on December 13, 2011.

DISCUSSION:

Two different types of light shields have been installed on the athletic field lights based on the recommendation of the school's lighting consultant. Standard cutoff shields were installed at the back of the fixtures on the eastern side of the field closest to the homes to reduce light spillover into backyards. A custom shield resembling an eyebrow feature and designed to direct light downward was attached to each of the fixtures on the western side of the field to reduce the amount of glare in the neighborhood.

Staff visited the campus on the evening of December 6, while the lights were on for a soccer match and was able to verify that all light fixtures now have shields as required by the conditions of approval. The effectiveness of the shields is quite apparent. Light levels in the adjacent neighborhood are dramatically lower than what was experienced during an earlier visit. While walking down Bienvenido Lane with a school official, staff had an opportunity to talk about the lights with one of the concerned neighbors who happened to be in her front yard. She indicated the situation was much more tolerable now and that her issues had

CCHS – Athletic Field Lights PHG 08-0018 November 22, 2011

been resolved. The school official noted he had received similar comments from the other concerned neighbor.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION:

The shields have been installed and have effectively reduced light and glare in the adjacent neighborhood. Light meter readings taken by a third party following installation of the shields indicates light levels are within the levels approved during the public hearing process. Planning staff has informed the Code Enforcement Division that the violations have been corrected and case can be closed. Staff would like to thank the administration of Calvin Christian High School and the Planning Commission for their roles in resolving this neighborhood issue. No further action on the part of the Planning Commission is recommended.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Martin

Principal Planner



December 7, 2011

To the Escondido Planning Commission:

Please accept this letter as an update on the field lights at Calvin Christian School.

As we previously reported to the Commission, the new custom light shields were installed on all the eastern-facing lights on November 22, 2011. Since then, several night soccer games have been played on the field, with the lights staying on no later than 8:00 pm. The brightness of the eastern-facing lights has decreased in a way that is obvious to the naked eye. In recent conversations, our neighbors Ms. Simpson and Ms. Vander Woude indicated that their previous concerns about the lights have been solved by the new custom shields.

In order to prove our compliance with the requirements of the Conditional Use Permit, we have also undertaken scientific testing of the light output. Our own lighting company had taken light measurements at the property line and on the adjacent street last year. Their measurements indicated that the light output was below the specifications in the CUP even before the new custom light shields were installed. However, after the new shields were installed, we hired an independent lighting company, Musco Lighting, to conduct a full test of the lighting output. Their testing confirmed that the current light outputs are below the specifications in the CUP.

Based on this information and the information provided by us for the previous hearing, we believe that all issues raised in the Notice of Violation have been successfully addressed. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Memmelaar

Marc Mumber

President of the Board

of Calvin Christian School

Corporate: Manufacturing: 2107 Stewart Road

100 1st Ave West

PO Box 808 PO Box 260 Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Muscatine, IA 52761

641/673-0411

800/825-6020

Fax: 641/673-4852 Fax: 800/374-6402

563/263-2281 - 800/756-1205 -Web: www.musco.com · Email: lighting@musco.com



December 8, 2011

Mr. Terry Kok Superintendent Calvin Christian School District 2000 N Broadway Escondido, CA 92026



Dear Mr. Kok:

On December 1st a Musco technician took light levels the Calvin Christian School football field. Musco technicians are factory trained and use light meters that are calibrated every 12 months.

Light levels were taken on the playing field, at the line of bushes east of the football field, at the house property line and the street line.

The light levels at the house property line are below the provided standard of 1.0 foot candle, with the highest recorded level being .5 foot candles.

Jeff Swim Lighting Services Sales Coordinator

