

February 5, 2016

Hello Jocelyn,

I wanted to provide my input on the marin catholic lights debate. I believe contacting you is the correct format - apologize if that is not the case.

I attended the meeting at the college of marin last week as a resident of Greenbrae, per the encouragement of my neighbors. For background, I attended a private high school in another state, where the school resided in a community that was largely unaffiliated with the school. I also played football and understand the excitement over friday night football - it's the reason every small town in america has high school football on friday nights. But I also look down on the MC field and am aware first hand of the concerns of my neighbors over the lights and associated noise. As a parent now of 3 children under 4, I also have the perspective of a homeowner who's sanity depends on our children's ability to get to sleep at a reasonable hour.

In short, I have to come out against the proposed lighting project for 3 reasons.

- 1) The single argument centered on the "benefits to the community". This may have been one of the worst arguments I have witnessed by anyone over the age of 10. The lack of thoughtful preparation and particularly consideration for the community was alarming. MC is not our local school. MC school events are not community events, if community is to mean the surrounding community and not just the MC community. The one leap of faith made during the presentation stated that the football games would keep kids from getting into trouble on friday nights. And by kids I mean MC students. So to me it sounded more like a threat - let us have football games at night and our students won't ravage your neighborhood. I think there are better arguments to be made.
- 2) Lack of data supporting the noise impact. Noise from the football and baseball fields travels across the entire valley, and as noticeable as it is during the day, it would be significantly worse at night when there is less ambient noise. MC's argument focused on the volume of the speakers - which while a start does not cover the noise we hear today without speakers. During the summer, the morning football practices act as my alarm. Or during baseball season, the ping of the bats are a constant reminder that it's still baseball season. There is no benefit to the community to have this noise continue until 9pm on weekdays.
- 3) I have seen the lights in question - they are noticeably more subtle than the constructions lights they've used on a temporary basis. But I've seen these lights on natural turf. There was no study that incorporated the glare from plastic turf - which does have significant reflective properties. I would like to see an impact study that included this data.

I hope my perspective helps. Ultimately it comes down to the community. Whether my children end up at MC or not, MC must be considerate of the community's wishes. It cannot be them versus us. MC is a small part of the community, and technically not even a local organization, and I only wish they incorporated that perspective into these plans.

Regards,

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