

To: Chapel Hill Community Design Commission

17 May 2022

Re: UNC Faculty-Staff Recreation Association (The Farm) Clay Tennis Court Lighting Conversion Project

The UNC Faculty-Staff Recreation Association (The Farm) has chosen to replace the lighting system on their 12 clay tennis courts with LED lights. The current lighting system features 1000-watt metal halide fixtures, like a ball field. The new system features fewer LED fixtures and should significantly reduce the amount of light spillage as all the light will be directed downward on to the playing surface. Conversion to LED lighting is also much more energy efficient, will provide a superior night playing experience, and has been heavily promoted by the Town of Chapel Hill. The Farm's Lighting Sub-committee visited Chapel Hill High School and saw the system they wish to convert to in action. The system worked incredibly well, and the sub-committee was impressed at the lack of light generated by the system just feet from the playing surface.

Between the time of the Chapel Hill High School lighting project and the purchase of the lights for The Farm the CDC began the initiative to keep area lighting below 3000K. A 3000K threshold is appropriate for area lighting such as parking lots, streetlights and building lights. However, sports lighting cannot be accomplished with lights in that K range.

The UNC Faculty-Staff Recreation Association (The Farm) requests that 5700K lighting be allowed as it is impossible to have adequate lighting for a sports venue using 3000K lighting. The new light system comes with an antiglare package. The light system also features instant on/off capability versus the old light package where the lights must warm back up for almost 30 minutes if they are turned off. This should result in less time where the lights are on and there is nobody using the courts. In addition, the courts will be closed and maintained, and the lights will be off no later than 9:40 pm mid-October to mid-March and 10:40 pm mid-March to mid-October.

Thank You,

Ben Allred, Manager