

**Oracle Dark Skies Committee  
Minutes, January 22, 2015**

In attendance:

Mike Weasner, Chair  
Evaline Auerbach, Recorder  
Jennifer Rinio  
Dale Redies

Stan Bembenek  
Wendy Ostrander  
Charlotte Poole

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. The minutes were approved as sent to committee members.

Weasner announced:

- In order to facilitate getting new committee members, he will put up the minutes of committee meetings, as well as the next meeting date on the website.
- \* An article re Oracle State Park is in the latest International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) newsletter. It contains a link to Weasner's report on the Korean delegation visit.
- \* A new Executive Director of IDA has been appointed, coming from another organization in California; he is excited to be at the job in Tucson. He probably will be at the March 21 celebration.
- \* IDA, as well as ODSC, will have tables on the patio at the January 24 Star Party.
- \* Last Friday he attended the Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition (CCEDC) where Arizona Parks Director Bryan Martyn spoke. He reported that 2013 showed record revenue for State parks, even with the downturn in support starting in 2009. Rinio noted that the parks had been reduced in paid employees by 200 in 2009). Martyn had also reported that his agency is planning to make the Arizona Trail into an Arizona State Park - so they and the trail organization and the Forest Service will be involved. Martyn's presentation was well-received by the Copper Corridor representatives.
- \* Next Tuesday Stan Bembenek and Weasner will be meeting with Pete Rios to talk about improving voluntary compliance with the Pinal County outdoor lighting ordinances. They will be discussing possible county-level programs to encourage awareness of and practices to improve dark skies: competitions, awards, etc.
- \* Sort-of-good news has come from Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT): Previously Weasner had contacted ADOT to ask someone to come to look at the Jones company billboard on Highway 77 that seemed to be violating the Arizona Highway Beautification rules. Mike Heedy from ADOT had called and said that he would look into the billboard, said he knew Dwight Jones and that Jones was cooperative with ADOT previously. Heedy called back and said he had talked to Jones, who had two reasons to do nothing to change the lights: (1) the light fixtures are not adjustable; (2) no shields are available for these lights. Weasner then pointed out that Keith Krueger (IDA member in northern Pinal County) provides volunteer/cheap help to customize shields, etc. Weasner concluded that "it would not be difficult (for Jones) to do what we want him to do."
- \* A meeting with Yong Sim, the new manager of the Circle K, revealed that he had found out from the old manager that there was a "fix" for their lights in the works. Circle K officials are planning to have shields installed that will hang down to the side of each light fixture. The date of this is unknown but Weasner has pointed out that the Circle K would be specially noted at the March 21 meeting if the fix is completed soon enough.

A discussion of the Star Party on January 24 followed.

- \* The weather is predicted to be clear.
- \* Rinio said that there will be a sandwich sign saying “private party” at the committee pot luck.
- \* The music will be set up on the northeast side of the living room, the speaker at the center of the west side. A heater will be on the patio and a fire in the fireplace.
- \* A final list of food for the pot luck was decided upon.
- \* Telescopes will be on display downstairs during the music and will be moved up to the main patio for viewing later on.
- \* Possibles: “Goodies” from AZ State Parks – red flashlights and star party brochures; a reporter from in Phoenix attending.
- \* The rangers reported quite a bit of interest in the Star Party, including some people who mistakenly came last Saturday.

Weasner presented the computer-designed “concept” for the “International Dark Sky Park” sign that will hang below the Oracle State Park gate sign. It was discussed that someone might have to “Micromanage ACI” - Arizona Correctional Institute to be sure everything is spelled correctly. This is the concept:



Weasner presented the latest version of the public display board. He noted that he had not yet put in the different colored type as previously suggested. He also discussed rearranging the description of the ODSC and putting in another picture. He said he had not yet received permission from Ellen Bilbrey to use the OSP logo.

New Suggestions:

- add “Center for Educational . . .” to “Oracle State Park”
- add “Friends OSP” logo
- change “ adds ....” so it obviously goes with “science of astronomy”
- light fixture pictures could be bigger and not square
- make sure the word “It” is connected to Oracle Dark Skies Committee.
- “To learn more. . .” instead of “for more info.”

- brighten up the Milky Way and timed photographs.

When the final version has been decided upon, Mike will take it to OfficeMax to see how much it can be made for - on a quarter-inch foam board.

Weasner will work on putting the content of the display onto trifold brochures after the board is completed.

Discussion of the March 21 celebration:

- Invitations need to be handled first: Weasner has a list of 30 names to be invited. He will send it to Bilbrey; cc Jennifer, Tye and Steve Haas. Rinio has put together a brief schedule to use.
- Schedule - programs will be occurring all day
  - Booths will be available 10 am - 4 pm.
  - Speakers will start at 1:00 pm.
  - Shifts for ODSC table will be set up.

The next meeting will be Feb. 12 with two others scheduled after that. Weasner will invite Dr. John Barentine from IDA to that meeting. He will also contact the Telescope donors to determine whether they will be able to attend to officially present their donations to the Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair