

Oracle Dark Skies Committee  
Minutes March 3, 2016

Attendees: Mike Weasner 520-289-3402, mweasner@mac.com; Stan Bembenek 520-896-2464, ahab@iinet; Charlotte Poole 520-850-4641, charpoole@q.com; Chip Parfet 303-257-9475, cparfet@gmail.com; Evaline Auerbach 520-610-8742, evalineja@icloud.com; Nancy Brodeur 520-999-7901, lillycat60; Don Brodeur 520-999-7901, dnbrodeur@msn.com; Gary Engebretson 619-252-2756, garyenge@pacbellnet; MaryHelen Vasquez and Waldo Vasquez, 570-955-2914, mhv17@live.com; Wendy Ostrander, 520-896-2951; Jennifer Rinio, 520-896-2425, jrinio@azstateparks.gov.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Treasurers report:

The balance brought forward was \$300.55. The brochures printed at OfficeMax, with discounts and folded were \$246.37. Balance is \$54.18 (paypal = \$37.85; \$16.33 cash). See attached report.

- Brochures will be at OSP, at Oracle visitor's center, and at Zipline. The ODSC will have copies for handouts.
- A question has arisen about tax responsibility for donations from Jim Walsh, attorney and FOSP member. He said that the committee should look at the "Arizona Non-profit Association" to see what tax liabilities may be. Walsh will see if he can have someone contact Weasner. One question: is there a threshold on income before we have to start paying taxes? Weasner said that maybe we shouldn't take any more donations until we are sure. However, it was the consensus of the Committee that we could continue as there is little chance that the small amount of money taken in by the Committee is liable for taxes.
- The next project will be purchasing more "no pollution" pins, including some designed for small lapel pins.

Light pollution community report

Circle-K west had replaced their lights just the previous day, but upon inspection this evening, one of them seems not to have been replaced. They are 3000 Kelvin and dark-sky friendly.

Reports

- Weasner received an email from the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative, via Peter Else. As a representative for preservation of dark skies, Weasner was asked to fill out a survey regarding "climate change and other landscape-scale ecosystem stressors."
- Weasner presented a report on International Dark Sky Places in Arizona:

International Dark Sky Communities [International Dark-Sky Association (IDA); <a href="http://www.darksky.org">http://www.darksky.org</a> ):	
Flagstaff	2001
Sedona	2014
Kaibab Paiute Indian Reservation	2015
Big Park/Village of Oak Creek	2016
International Dark Sky Parks [IDA]:	
Parashant International Night Sky Province	2014
Oracle State Park	2014
Red Rock State Park	(in work)
Kartchner Caverns State Park	(in work)
Catalina State Park	(contemplated)
Slide Rock State Park	(contemplated)
Homolovi State Park	(contemplated)
International Dark Sky Reserves [IDA]:	
Lower San Pedro River Watershed	(in work)
Global StarPark Network [Astronomers Without Borders; <a href="http://www.onestar-awb.org">http://www.onestar-awb.org</a> ; program no longer active?]:	
Alamo Lake State Park	2011
Kartchner Caverns State Park	2011
Sedona Posse Grounds Park	2011

Weasner sees a competition with Texas which has a goal to have all state parks approved as Dark Sky Parks; Arizona hasn't said that yet. Weasner is on the IDA IDS Places Committee which approves areas around the globe, but recuses himself whenever Arizona State Parks are considered.

### Upcoming Events

In planning: Auerbach reported:

- The Oracle Historical Society is interested in working on the centennial of the donation from Mrs. Lavinia Steward which led to the building of and installing of the first telescope in, the Steward Observatory, University of Arizona. The known date was October 19, 1916. Auerbach will work on seeing who at the Observatory is interested in participating in the planning and is scheduled to be on the OHS Board meeting Agenda March 13. A possible virtual tour, especially of the original telescope, might be done.
- The Oracle Piano Society Board will be meeting Saturday, March 5 at 10:00 am. Auerbach is on the agenda regarding a "Dark Skies Concert." The ODSC recommended that the Concert be on December 21 (Winter solstice) or sometime in February 2017. The telescopes would be arranged by the ODSC outside the OrCA (Oracle Center Arts) building for viewing after the piano concert, with, perhaps electronic or "moveable" instruments playing at the outdoor location.

### Oracle State Park event, March 5

- Schedule: 11:00am house tour/ 12:00 - 4pm kids activities/ 3:00 - 5:00pm Beginner Digital Astrophotography workshop (by Weasner)/ 5:00 - 6:30pm - hiking nature trail: local musicians will be at each of the signs/ 7:00 - 9:00pm - Star party with telescopes from the Park and from the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association (TAAA).
- The microphone will be up for announcements by 5:00.
- Booths will be up from ~5:00 - 7:00pm - Friends; ODSC.

### Oracle State Park, March 19

An Arizona Trail Leadership Conference meets at OSP. Ranger Gary Faulkenberry will be in charge. They will meet in the Living Room and Camp out at the Group Use Area. During the day, they will be involved in a Trail project. That night, one or two of the OSP telescopes will be set up for the group on the upper patio. The moon will be bright that night so the sky will not be

dark, but Jupiter and the Moon should provide nice views. Bembenek and Parfet will help with the telescopes, starting at 6:00pm for a couple of hours.

Oracle State Park, April 9 -

For International Dark Sky Week, Dr. John Barentine will present a talk on topics from his book *The Lost Constellations* (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319227948>). These are constellations that were identified years ago, mostly by Europeans, but are “extinct” now. These constellations were made up mostly of stars so faint that as light pollution increased around the globe they could no longer be seen. Now some of them can be “rediscovered” in dark sky areas. For this program, Barentine will talk at 6:30pm and after dark point out some of these “lost constellations” in the Oracle sky. Telescope viewing will be at 8:00 pm. The Saddlebrook Skygazers Club have been invited. Reservations are suggested.

#### Announcements

A bill passed, mostly on party lines, in the Arizona legislature which allows the electronic billboard industry more access in the NW part of the state - allowing big bright distracting electronic message boards.

The Board Meeting was completed at 7:25 pm.

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair

ODSC Income & Expenses

2016 ODSC Income										
Date	Item	Description	Amount	Donations & Fundraising	Sales	Outreach & Education	Events & Projects	FOSP Donations	ODSC Grants	
01/01/16	2015 Balance brought forward		\$300.55							
	<b>Actual Income</b>		<b>\$300.55</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>									
2016 ODSC Expenses										
Date	Item	Description	Amount	Fundraising	Office Expenses	Outreach & Education	Events & Projects	Equipment Purchase	Equipment Maintenance	Travel
02/17/16	Brochures (qty 250)	OfficeMax printing, folding	\$246.37			\$246.37				
	<b>Actual Expenses</b>		<b>\$246.37</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$246.37</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>									
2016 ODSC Net Balance										
3/3/2016	Paypal Balance		\$37.85							
3/3/2016	Cash Balance		\$16.33							
	* pending reimbursement to Weasner									