

Oracle Dark Skies Committee
Minutes 4/17/2014
Kannally House, Oracle State Park

Attending: Mike Weasner, Chair; Evaline Auerbach, Recorder; Jennifer Rinio, OSP Ranger; Dale Redies, OSP Ranger; Stan Bembenek; Mary Helen and Waldo Vasquez; Chip Parfet

Chair Weasner introduced new members Mary Helen and Waldo Vasquez.

Approval of minutes: Rinio noted that the information about the "American Avenue" site was somewhat misleading, implying that it was the only area with handicapped access. Minutes were corrected and approved as corrected.

Rinio noted that one difference between the remote site (off American Ave. near highway 77 at the east entrance to Oracle) and the sites within the main entrance area is that the remote site doesn't need special permission for access after hours whereas the sites within the main park do need permission for access when the park is closed. Nevertheless, the patio at the Kannally House and one or two other areas within the park would be suitable for sky parties and other events related to dark skies. In fact, sky parties have been held at the Kannally House site.

Weasner presented documents for the nomination package:

- * a map of OSP with arrows showing sites for events
- * a sample spreadsheet into which measurement data for proof of dark skies can be entered.
- * He noted that he is trying to borrow a meter to make such measurements, but that such a meter might need to be purchased.

Weasner also presented

- * a map of the sky showing Oracle in a darker area.
- * 2012 satellite photo showing no lights in the area of OSP
- * a Google maps view of Oracle State Park
- * a lighting inventory worksheet - data to be collected. Bembenek volunteered to help with the collection of this data.

Discussion then turned to

- * a possible night-time program of live music and sky viewing at OSP during May
- * bringing the lights at the Park up to standard. The lights in the parking lot are to be retrofitted. The lights at the historic house and adjoining structures may require special care in order to keep the building historically correct.
- * Parfet agreed to research examples of environmental education at the park.
- * Rinio will collect information about past events at OSP, including cultural as well as environmental
- * Rinio will also look at whether there is a park policy about lights.
- * Park policy about putting sponsors names of areas of the park - a brick at the patio was suggested for each.
- * whether a name was needed for the "remote area."
- * For the future - plans for a possible observatory and telescope for the park.

- * the need to define the sponsorship program and begin to talk to people and groups about sponsorship.
- * developing a light policy which could be used for all state parks eventually

Parfet presented a file box and loose leaf notebook to the committee to be used to keep the items collected for the nomination. Auerbach and Weasner were to put them together using the outline of materials needed as presented at the previous meeting.

Signed,

/signed/

Evaline Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

/signed/

Mike Weasner, Chair