

**Oracle Dark Skies Committee
Minutes May/22/2014, 6:30 pm.
Kannally House, Oracle State Park**

Attending: Mike Weasner, Chair; Evaline Auerbach, Recorder; Charlotte Poole; Wendy Ostrander; Bill and Jean John, Anna Lands, Chip Parfet, Jennifer Rinio;

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes were approved and signed.

General Agenda Topics:

- **Publicity:** Weasner had a telecom with Ellen Billbrey, Chief of Marketing and Public Relations at Arizona State Parks and a press release should go out soon. Val Bembenek can be called upon for local publicity.
- **Star Party, June 21.** Scheduled are the band “Undercover” from Tucson with a mix of songs and styles. They will play from 6 to 8 pm and astronomers will present telescopes for use from 8 to 10. A discussion of means to get the word out ensued.
- FOSP Board meeting is Tuesday, June 10 at 6:00 pm.
- Weasner will attend a program for the Oracle Public Library at Trowbridge Hall on Tuesday, May 21 at 4 pm.
- Upcoming outreach by Weasner at Oracle Women’s Network and Oracle Historical Society.

Community Outreach on light pollution

- Liberty Park - Weasner presented pictures of the lights there. Auerbach was asked to explain the history of the use of the site. She will write up a history for the record.
- Circle K near Highway 77 (“lower”) - Weasner met with manager Rodney Anderson. Mr. Anderson explained that the lights there were for “safety” but was supportive about seeing what could be done to mitigate any problems.
- Weasner and Bill John visited the Ford dealership manager, taking along pictures from Mike’s residence. These showed that some lights were shining out horizontally and were not shielded. Subsequently to the meeting, Weasner sent lists of dark-sky-approved fixtures from Lowe’s and Home Depot. An inquiry sent to Ford Motor Company about light pollution at its dealerships led received a response that such information was “considered proprietary”. The IDA is reaching out to get information from Ford Motor Co. and other corporations.
- Weasner said that he had talked to a neighbor who said he was changing his fixtures “this summer.” This may or may not be in time to be included in the package.

At next week’s meeting, Steve Abraham, who is in charge of enforcing the Pinal County Lighting Code, will attend to explain the code and answer questions. One known tidbit is that searchlights have been forbidden since the new code came in Jan 1, 2011.

On the night of May 21, Weasner had taken more light measurements. They were the darkest so far, probably because there was not so much dust. The measures were “still not gold.”

Mike announced that an app for “dark skies” is available for smart phones.

Auerbach reported that six people at the CCEDC (Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition) had signed up to receive a copy of the nomination package (all online):

From the CCEDC itself: President Elizabeth Magallanez, Lillian Martinez and Maria Munoz, and Celeste Andressen. Martinez is an aide to District one County Supervisor Pete Rios; Munoz is at Central Arizona College and Andressen also represents The Nature Conservancy, Besides these, Sam Hosler, Mayor of the town of Kearny and Adam Perlman of the Ray Credit Union wish to write letters of support. Altogether, six letters of support could come from this group. Weasner will attend the June meeting on June 20 at Dudleyville to talk to the group and answer questions.

Auerbach also reported that she is working on the article about the History of the Steward Observatory, started by a donation to the University of Arizona for that purpose by Lavinia Steward of Oracle. (That's why it's named after the Stewards of Oracle)

OSP IDSP Nomination Package discussion:

- Cover page: change in graphic; complete name of Park needed.
- Combine past and current events at the park into one section.
- Still waiting to get a letter or nomination from Bryan Martyn or the Governor, if he wants to pass it on up.
- The list of support letter writers goes away when the package is sent out for review.
- The history of the park used in the package seems to have no date - suggestion to label it "nd".
- Maps have been highlighted in red to show position of OSP.
- A legend for the sky quality map is needed.
- Don't yet have a fee policy statement for evening visiting at the remote parking lot.
- Lighting at the park itself mostly handled, but new problem may arise with the new restroom structure design. Lights inside and outside are required for safety. Could be solar with on-off automatic on/off switch. A wall could shield the lighting from the patio.
- Checklist of requirement for the package has been added.
- Requirements for the silver/gold tiers have been added.
- The committee list is there - be sure to check your own.

Weasner also announced that a telescope may be available for donation to the Friends of the Oracle State Park.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 29 May 2014, 6:30 PM, at the Kannally Ranch House

Adjourned: about 8:00 pm MST

Signed,

/signed/

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

/signed/

Mike Weasner, Chair