

Oracle Dark Skies Committee  
Minutes June 2, 2016  
La Hacienda Club, Saddlebrooke Ranch

Attendees: Mike Weasner 520-289-3402, mweasner@mac.com; Evaline Auerbach 520-610-8742, evalineja@icloud.com; Charlotte Poole 520-850-4641, charpoole@q.com; Dale Readies, 520-896-2425, dredies@azstateparks.gov; Chip Parfet 303-257-9475, cparfet@gmail.com.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Treasurers report: Expense \$17.00 for the No buttons. Weasner reported \$49.18 in the account. **See report attached.**

Light pollution community report - Weasner: The Circle K Letter thanking them for changing to non-polluting lights has been sent - May 16. Weasner received an email acknowledging letter from the Canadian parent company of Circle K. IDA sent a letter to same people which volunteers IDA to help Circle K internationally to solve light pollution problems.

Upcoming Events this year

- **June 25:** Star party, etc. @5pm- birds, bees, bats program for national pollinator week. @6-8pm music - Keven Pakulis; Tables: ODSC, IDA, Saddlebrook Stargazer's club. @8-10 viewing. Weasner is bringing a small 4" telescope and new product (Revolution Imager, Model 2) with a camera and screen to see what's on the telescope.
  - Northwestern U's Megan A. Bonham wants to meet with people about how night sky influences them. Arrangements will be made for her to meet with people.
- **July/August** - Night event. bat night, bug night. Light pollution aspect.
- **September 10** - Star Party. TAAA will provide telescopes. Probably an event about the history of the Steward Observatory.
- **October 15 (?)** - Trail music and astronomical event in the planning.
- **December 18** - The Oracle Piano Society and the Oracle Dark Sky Committee will present, jointly, a Celestial Concert. Evaline Auerbach is organizing it overall; the OPS is organizing the music and the venue set-up; Mike Weasner is organizing the stargazing after the party. Adam Block's astrophotography will be shown between music pieces and Fr. Chris Connolly of the Vatican Observatory will present a talk on the Bethlehem Star just after the Concert. Food from a local restaurant will be available.
- **Other Steward Observatory events.** It was agreed that ODSC will be the umbrella organization for the Steward Observatory centennial events in Oracle, beginning with the September 10 event above and ending with the December 18 event. Other possibilities are
  - **October:** an event about the Stewards in Oracle, possibly at the Steward House. Auerbach is working on this. Also: group or individual attendance at the event at the Steward Observatory itself on October 18, the actual date of the Steward gift in 1916.
  - **November:** Art show of Adam Block's astrophotography, along with his wife's paintings in advance of the Concert on Dec. 18 where his photos are to be used in the program. Auerbach is in conversation locally about this.
- Other Possibilities for programs
  - (Kitt Peak) binocular star-gazing program. They bring the binoculars to a site.

- One of Weasner's former astronomy professors is giving dark sky talks at national parks. Perhaps he could give one at Oracle State Park. He is willing if in the area.
- Frank Lopez from Stellarvision has a 16" telescope in a trailer which he can bring to events. He could also provide small items for sale to the public.
- **Dates for events in 2017**
  - March 18 - TAAA
  - September 23 - TAAA

#### Announcements

- Flagstaff Area Monuments have been collectively designated an International Dark Sky Park
- Arizona could see itself as in a passive competition with other states
  - There are nine approved Dark Sky Places in Arizona.
  - Colorado - has one park, one community - Black Canyon of the Gunnison
  - New Mexico - three: two parks and a sanctuary. - 2 are gold tier
  - Utah - six parks: five gold, one bronze
  - Texas has six, four being parks; three are gold.
  - Texas says every park that can qualify will become a dark sky park; Utah likewise, New Mexico looks like it's going that way.

Therefore, Weasner suggests approaching Sue Black, Executive Director, Arizona State Parks, with the competition idea. Parfet and Weasner will ask for a meeting with Black to push publicity for such a competition. Someone from the IDA may go also.

- IDA and ODSC are jointly developing an "Arizona Dark Sky Highway" consisting of observatories, dark sky parks and possible other places on a publicized tour that may be promoted through the Arizona Department of Tourism. The dark sky status at other Arizona parks would be considered with this in mind: Catalina, Kartchner, Red Rocks (and possibly others)
- The IDA has offered to be a resource for any State Parks Agency-wide lighting management plan to examine and change, if necessary, park lighting.
- A list can be compiled for program possibilities - people/ groups to contact about light pollution's effect on human health, wildlife, safety and energy efficiency.
- Though a bill in the State Legislature to allow more billboards was voted down, the original author sneaked it in as a rider to the budget, so it became law with the budget. However, as of this meeting, the State had not yet put it on line. Dr. Laurie Allen, director at Kitt Peak who had swayed most of the committee members to vote the original down, couldn't even see the bill online.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45. The next meeting is August 4, at the same place.

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							
03/05/16	OSP Star Party donation		\$5.00	\$5.00						
04/09/16	OSP Event & Star Party donation		\$7.00	\$7.00						
	<b>Actual Income</b>		<b>\$312.55</b>	<b>\$12.00</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				
05/07/16	No LP buttons 1" (qty 50)	Nobs Buttons	\$17.00			\$17.00				
	<b>Actual Expenses</b>		<b>\$263.37</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$263.37</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		\$49.18						
5/5/16	Paypal Balance		\$20.85							
5/5/16	Cash Balance		\$28.33							
	* pending reimbursement to Weasner									