

Oracle Dark Skies Committee  
Minutes June 4, 2015  
Saddlebrooke Ranch La Hacienda Club, La Mesa Room

Attendees

Committee: **Mike Weasner, Chair; Evaline Auerbach, Recorder; Chip Parfet; Charlotte Poole; Stan Bembenek; Jennifer Rinio;**

Guests Mike & Marlyce Mycka; Nancy and Don Brodeur.

Weasner called the meeting to order at about 6:35 pm.

Minutes from the previous two meetings were approved.

**REPORTS:**

Financial, Weasner: There are no expenses or financial additions since the last meeting. Weasner needs the expense sheet from Friends of OSP via Poole. Weasner explained to the guests about FOSP being an example for money donated to the committee as a 501c3 organization should the ODSC ever decide to pursue that designation.

Weasner, Chair reported:

- \* No new information re working with Pinal County to upgrade lighting in the county. By way of explanation: the committee along with the Board of Supervisors, especially local District one Supervisor Pete Rios, and Open space and Trails Director Kent Taylor, have been working on some ideas to encourage Pinal County residents in using lights without causing light pollution.
- \* Mammoth, Kearny, Superior - the incorporated communities - could be contacted; other parks are working with Weasner; San Tan Park and Superstition Mountain Land Trust are interested.
- \* Central Arizona College is another avenue that may be interested in participating.
- \* It is hoped that a Pinal Counties Dark Sky Coalition with local residents or business leaders from various areas can be formed.
- \* Weasner had just sent emails to Kent Taylor and to Keith Krueger, IDA Chapter Lead for Pinal County regarding forming a Pinal Counties Dark Sky Coalition.
- At the most recent meeting of Friends of Oracle State Park, a discussion continued about installing an outdoor kiosk to display Park, FOSP, and International Dark sky Park information. OSP Park Ranger Jennifer Rinio expressed a preference for interpretive panels.

Rinio, Park Ranger, then discussed interpretive panels that are permanent rather than a three-sided kiosk. Funding is in place for that. Panels could have one dedicated to OSP and the other to IDA. Size is TBD.

Meanwhile other projects have been completed or are in progress.

- A telescope is on display this month at Kannally Ranch House.
- Two plaques (OSP IDA IDSP award & ODSC IDA Dark Sky Defender) are on display inside.
- Stan Bembenek and Mike Weasner are working on a slide show to display in the Kannally Ranch House.
- Weasner is designing a Dark Sky brochure.

## OLD BUSINESS -

- Photography workshop plans are progressing, It will meet two Saturdays. Bembenek will do one on landscape and wildlife photography and Weasner will do one on beginner astrophotography. The photographs taken by participants might be used for postcards for Park.
- Mike gave information about the Committee's trip to the Sky Center. It can be found on the website [http://www.weasner.com/observatories/Mt\\_Lemmon\\_2015/index.html](http://www.weasner.com/observatories/Mt_Lemmon_2015/index.html).

## NEW BUSINESS

- The Park needs to submit an annual update to the IDA. Park Manager Steve Haas will be the submitter for the park. The ODSC and OSP will prepare the update.
- Upcoming Dark Sky events at OSP:
  - \* Saturday, June 7 Native American interpretations by Jim O'Connor - 7:30 at the upper patio. The committee needs to set up telescopes for after the presentation.
  - \* Saturday, June 27 - Guided moonlit night walk with dark sky interpretation, using binoculars. People will meet at the Oak Woodland Area; reservations preferred. Telescopes will be set up for use after the hike.
  - \* Saturday July 25 - Bat night. details TBA; may be telescopes - or bring your own.
- Future events
  - Auerbach proposed a display of Photographs by Adam Block, of the Mt. Lemmon SkyCenter. He could have an opening later this year and would discuss how he does his photographs. The photographs would be on display for a month or so, perhaps with a guide from the committee on hand each weekend. This could happen in September to go along with the photography workshops. Easels could be used for the photographs. Rinio and Auerbach will meet to work out details after the middle of June.
  - Auerbach reported that she will be taking greetings to "Julie" at the Kerry, Ireland, Dark Skies Reserve on July 26-27.

NEXT MEETING: 6:30 at Saddlebrooke Ranch La Hacienda Club July 2.

The committee welcomes its newest members:

Mike Mycka  
Marlyce Mycka  
Don Brodeur  
Nancy Brodeur

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair