

Oracle Dark Skies Committee
Minutes June/12/2014, 6:30 pm.
Kannally House, Oracle State Park

Attending: Mike Weasner, Chair; Evaline Auerbach, Recorder; Stan Bembenek; Bill John; Jean John; Jennifer Rinio; MaryHelen Vasquez; Waldo Vasquez; Chip Parfet; Wendy Ostrader; Anna Lands. See attached Sign-in sheet.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes were approved and signed.

General Agenda Topics:

- **Star Party, June 21:** The music is set 6 - 8 pm. Getting telescopes has been difficult because the larger groups are going to the event at the Grand Canyon on the same weekend, but individuals are helping out. The Friends of Oracle State Park will have the hospitality table. FOSP will supply water.
- The Red lights have been installed at the Kannally House and the parking lot. Weasner is working on getting red film to put over flashlights.

Public Outreach

- Weasner was interviewed by Arizona Public Media and the piece was on the NPR radio. it is available online (http://www.weasner.com/OSP_IDSP_Nomination_Package_Materials/AZ_Public_Media_interview_060314.mp3)
- Auerbach presented information about Oracle Dark Skies to the OWN - Oracle Women's Network - and presented sample letters of support. The group promised a letter of support.
- Weasner presented an informational program at the Oracle Historical Society Board meeting the previous Sunday. The Board voted to present a letter of support.
- Weasner attended the FOSP meeting last week to update them about progress on the proposal. They agreed to pay for the red film needed to go over peoples flashlights at the June 21 event.
- Weasner and Auerbach met with County Supervisor Pete Rios, who was very supportive of the Dark Skies concept and the proposal to make the OSP an International Dark Skies Park. He has proposed that a County staff member and Weasner work on the wording of a resolution that can be passed by the full Board of Supervisors in early July. It is interesting to note that Rios asked about possible pollution from the lighting (for night games) at the park in Dudleyville.

Light Pollution outreach

- The Oracle Ford Manager agreed to turn off some lights that had showed up in pictures taken from a distance. He has done so and the problem seems solved. Weasner has "before" and "after" pictures. The "after" picture shows that all is well, EXCEPT...
- The only remaining light that doesn't conform comes not from the Ford dealership but from the billboard on Highway 77 that is owned by Jones Outdoor Advertising. Weasner will approach the company about the problem.
- Circle-K near Highway 77 ("lower") - The manager has contacted corporate and they will be making the lights over the pumps compliant. The work orders are in, but it may take a while before an "after" picture can be had.
- Weasner has talked to a neighbor who said he was changing his fixtures.

- Sharon Holnbach, owner of Triangle-L Bed and Breakfast, has asked Weasner to consult about the location and nature of lights to be used at the events there.

Future Event: Recognition for people who helped with letters of support and with the “going for the gold” push to reduce light pollution in Oracle was discussed. It was decided that they might receive a certificate and/or a day pass to the OSP at an Award Party held after the designation as IDSP is given this fall.

OSP IDSP Nomination Package discussion:

- Weasner is working on V. 5. He is also working with Brian Martyn, head of Arizona State Parks who will write the nomination letter. The proposal needs to be ready to sent by Wednesday, June 18, so those proofreading it need to do so ASAP.
- A list of promised and completed Letters of Support has been developed by Weasner and is available on request.
- Stan Bembenek can print photo - quality pages for the cover of the hard-copy proposal.
- Printing of the final proposal for archival purposes has been priced. With 100 pages, 39-49 pages in color, the price would be about \$50.00 each for three copies - Oracle Public Library, Oracle Historical Society, Oracle State Park.
- Weasner will see about getting the proposal linked to the Oracle State Park website.
- Information about special event fees is still needed.
- Weasner and Auerbach will be attending the Copper Corridor Economic Development Board meeting at a special time and place in Queen Creek on June 20 to answer questions about the Nomination Package for those in that group who have promised letters of support.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 19, 2014, 6:30 PM, at the Kannally Ranch House. This meeting will be about the final Nomination Package and the Concert/Star Party. Meetings will then not be held weekly for a while.

Adjourned: about 8:00 pm MST

Signed,

/signed/

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

/signed/

Mike Weasner, Chair

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