

**Oracle Dark Skies Committee**  
**Minutes June 19, 2014, 6:30 pm.**  
**Kannally House, Oracle State Park**

**Attending:** Mike Weasner, Chair; Evaline Auerbach, Recorder; Stan Bembenek; Jennifer Rinio; Chip Parfet; Wendy Ostrader. See attached Sign-in sheet.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the June 12 meeting were approved and signed.

**General Agenda Topics**

**Status of the Proposal:**

- Weasner presented a hard-copy of the proposal. He announced that the e-version is now on the Oracle State Park website (Arizona State Park website). He said that the webmaster had stated that it was like a “doctoral thesis”
- Weasner has notified all those who have written a Letter of Support (LoS) or have indicated that they would do so that they can find it at this location.
- Weasner announced that Brian Martyn, Executive Director of Arizona State Parks has provided his Letter of Nomination.
- Jennifer Rinio said that the new maps of the Park were probably not as good for use in the Proposal as were the old ones (more text; less map per se).
- Letters of Support are also expected from
  - The Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance,
  - The Copper Corridor Economic Development Board, along with LoS from various members of the Board who represent other groups. Weasner and Auerbach are attending the June meeting at Gold Canyon Resort on Friday.
  - The Board of Supervisors of Pinal County.

**Other:**

Weasner has

- \* emailed a proposed letterhead - approved by acclamation from the committee.
- \* begun to set up a website for the Committee which will be public. The theme will be “Go for the Gold” and it will go live after the Star Party (June 21).
- \* received a model certificate from the IDA which can be used for presentations to people who have helped with the nomination and with light pollution mediation. A example was also sent to the committee.

It was discussed how many signs would be needed from Arizona Department of Transportation to attach to “Oracle State Park” signs to show the designation as an International Dark Skies Park. The number is probably 11. Nothing will be done until the designation is received.

**Star Party, June 21.**

- More people have volunteered to bring telescopes so there should be enough. Details about telescope drop-off were discussed, with cones to be set up to reserve space for drop-off.
- Good views of Jupiter, Mars and Saturn should be available. The moon will not rise until after the event is over at 10 pm.
- Committee members will be notified about how to get into the park to help if they are not on a participants’ list.
- IDA will be set up next to the Committee’s table.

- Weasner has red cellophane to cover visitor's flashlights.

**Public Outreach:** None this week.

### **Light Pollution outreach**

- Weasner has called and emailed the billboard company which has the "Oracle Inn" and "Catalina Inn" signs which use excess light that "spills over" and can be seen from a mile away and more in Oracle. Jones Outdoor Advertising has not responded or agreed to receive information from Weasner. So, the next step is to go through their customers. It was discussed that it will be obvious to future visitors that this is supposed to be a "Dark Skies" area (additions to the Park signs) which contrasts with the obvious light pollution of the billboard.
  - Auerbach and Weasner will meet with the Darimonts, owners of Oracle Inn.
  - Parfet will meet with Catalina Inn managers.

**Next Meeting:** TBA, perhaps in two weeks. Meetings will be held less frequently until the final package is ready for submittal to IDA.

**Adjourned:** 7:30 pm MST

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair

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