

Oracle Dark Skies Committee Minutes July 17, 2014.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Mike Weasner on the OSP STAR PARTY: June 21 was a tremendous success. Arizona State Parks Director Bryan Martyn was there to see and enjoy it all. The IDA attendee was impressed; he hadn't been to Oracle at night before.

Nomination package

It's ready to go, basically: version 1.0 will be ready tomorrow; Tye Farrell will compress the file and upload to OSP site. Weasner will let IDA know. The submission statement to accompany the Nomination Package was approved by the Committee.

Recent letters of support to be included are from - Cascabel Conservation Association, Copper Corridor Economic Development, Pinal County Board of Supervisors.

Weasner appeared at the Pinal County Board of Supervisors meeting on July 2; He was given a chance to speak to the issue. A video is available: http://www.weasner.com/ODSC/docs/Pinal_Co_Board_of_Supervisors_070214.m4v

The Website is live: www.weasner.com/ODSC

"Go for the Gold" is being promoted as a way for those in the community to try for darker skies. A discussion was held on where besides the Fire Department it could be advertised.

Mike is cooperating with **YMCA camp** (Triangle Y Ranch) to give a program there but the liaison broke his shoulder, so that is postponed for a while.

Sharon Holnbach asked Mike to help out with GLOW (4 events). Set up telescopes. 6th and 13th Sept. and 4th & 11th of October. 7 pm. except 13th at 5 for families. The Dark skies participation will be something new for those events.

Arizona State Parks will be sending Mike Weasner to the "Blinded by the Light Summit." He will report at the next meeting.

Mike briefly mention having a meeting in Pinal County patterned after the "Blinded by the Light Summit." Included could be:

- Retailers of lighting fixtures: Home Depot, Lowes, Ace Hardware, Discount stores
- * IDA
- * Friends of OSP, OSP, our committee.
- * Sponsors: local businesses and groups
- Groups who have sent letters.

We could aim for early 2015. It could be a big turn-out event. Where it could be held is a concern since there could be a large turnout.

Community Project Status:

- Dealing with billboard problems. - Late last week, Mike emailed Steve Abrahams at Pinal County Planning & Development. No response yet.

- Billboard may not be in compliance with Arizona Highway Beautification act.
- We are trying to get a meeting with the Oracle Inn.
- Wood field's lights are still an unknown quantity, to be discussed by the county officials involved.
- Corporate resistance has surfaced at the Circle-K. Local manager, Rodney Anderson, is still in favor,
- Weasner talked to a neighbor who had put up fixtures on his garage. One was shielded but had the bulb down below the shield. It had pull chain extension and a motion-detector but the owner didn't use either, so agreed to take them off. Before and after pictures will be in the document.

Weasner attended the Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition meeting at Gold Canyon. The only negative idea or question was from a board member who has been a railroad man. He was concerned that the dark skies requirements might lead to "more regulations," explaining that he already must deal with state and federal regulations.

Weasner passed around a copy of Zocalo magazine - "Summer Sensation" received from Triangle-L. The magazine had an article about Oracle State Park and the Dark Skies effort.

A discussion of how many printed copies of the nomination package would be needed for local distribution yielded these suggestions:

- Arizona State Parks, Phoenix.
- OSP
- Oracle Library
- This committee
- Anna's Group

It was suggested that ODSC should get a link, event information, etc., on oracletown.com

Weasner showed an "SOS" kit received from IDA that is going out to astronomy clubs. For use at presentations, it is especially good for showing how the light is so much better pointing downward.

Additional information from the Star party:

- Astronomers were arguing about the identification of certain stars because they were not used to seeing so many stars as compared to when they looked at the sky from Tucson. They were giddy about seeing stars they don't see in Tucson.
- John Barentine [IDA] talked about bringing people to the OSP to see what they can't see elsewhere.
- IDA wants to do some night sky quality measuring device testing at OSP. Weasner can keep the loaner SQM meter, at least through the summer, to calibrate with the iPhone app.

Last regular scheduled meeting until we have more to talk about.