

Oracle Dark Skies Committee

Minutes August 6, 2015

Saddlebrooke Ranch - LaHacienda

Attendees: Mike Weasner, mweasner@mac.com; Evaline Auerbach, evalineja@icloud.com; Don Brodeur, dnbrodeur@msn.com; Nancy Brodeur, lillykat60@gmail.com; Wendy Ostrander, no email given - phone 520-896-2951; Niel Christensen, nielc@aol.com; Dale Redies, dredies@azstateparks.gov; Chip Parfet, cparfet@gmail.com; Anna Lands, healing@rnsmtc.com; Zenia Fera, xenya3923@hotmail.com.
{Note from Evaline: please correct any incorrect contact info when you get these minutes. If you don't want yours on the minutes, say so.}

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Weasner, Chair, in the Mesa Room.

Updates, announcements

- Weasner was appointed in May to the IDA (International Dark-Sky Association) to be on the Dark Sky Places Committee that selects which dark sky proposals to approve. One of these is in a new category - Dark sky Sanctuary. This category differs from "Park" or "Reserve" in that it is situated in a place that is remote and dark but is used to increase awareness of the fragile sites, not necessarily to be visited by the public. Weasner said that "Oracle community" and area was mentioned as a possible dark sky sanctuary.
- Lands asked what kind of area could be a sanctuary and noted that she thought it excluded any area with state land in it. Weasner noted that one of the areas is on private property.
- Redies said that she is a state land volunteer and can look into the state land issue.
- John Barentine, IDA Dark Sky Places Program Manager, has written a book: *The Lost Constellations: A History of Obsolete, Extinct, or Forgotten Star Lore* on Amazon at \$45.00/\$30.00 ebook.
- Auerbach reported meeting Julie Ormonde, founder, at the Kerry (Ireland) Dark Sky Reserve. You can see it at <http://kerrydarksky.com>. Ormonde has two books on Amazon and has a Kickstarter campaign to publish them.

Public Outreach

- **Zip Line, new business:** Weasner reported that Brandon Luthy of Zip Line says that they are not planning to have lights. He suggested marketing in conjunction with ODSC.
- American Flag event by OHS at American Flag Ranch - September 26 11 am - 4 pm: ODSC will be there; Auerbach, Parfet, Ostrander, and Weasner volunteered to help with the ODSC booth.
- At the 17 July - CCEDC meeting **Weasner** proposed a Pinal County Dark Skies Coalition

Events

Past -

- **Bat Night.** See the report at the committee site. About 60 people attended even though only 30 had signed up. OSP wants to turn this into an annual event. This type of educational event counts as a "dark sky awareness" event as it highlights local fragile wildlife that can be impacted by artificial light at night.

Future -

- There is a company that offers night-sky tours: Celestial Adventures. Contact information was passed to Jennifer Rinio, Oracle State Park.

- A Star Party is scheduled for - October 3. Music 4 - 6. Telescope Viewing follows. Groups that need to be alerted include the Saddlebrooke Skygazers and Tucson groups. [Update: changed to 10 October.]
- Annual Celebration. - IDA is having dark sky week April 4-10, 2016. - The OSP could be hosts for the IDA. Weasner will contact IDA about it.
- Photography workshops are coming up at OSP: Free with reservations. Each limited to 12 and the participant must furnish their own camera.
 - Oct. 10 @10 am-noon: Bembenek will teach photography of wildlife and landscapes.
 - Oct 17 @4 - 6:30 pm: Weasner will teach beginners astrophotography.
- Auerbach and Rinio will be meeting to set up the proposed astrophotography workshop at OSP in November by Adam Block of the Mt. Lemmon SkyCenter.

Old Business

- Income & expenses form for the ODSC: Weasner presented a sample with real items listed. It had some problems: "Net Income Line" was doubling actual income; "office" as a category should be "Office expenses" for clarity and another category should be "sales" instead of "office sales".
- Redies will double-check whether it's okay to put out a collection jar for ODSC at OSP events.
- Business cards need to be obtained to hand out by the committee.
- T-shirts could be purchased- one style to sell and another style for committee members to wear
- **Brochures.** The committee suggested changes and corrections which Weasner will incorporate
 - add "go for the gold" to the brochure.
 - reorder the pages - front page = 1; current page 4 goes to page 5; current page 3 goes to 2; 2 goes to 3; tbd section ends up on page 4. Add more words, explanatory text. Will be emailed by Weasner late in the month.
 - put in explanation of whether LED lights or good - or what? So much brighter - Weasner will put info on the TBD page.
 - put "What can I do?" on the light pollution pages
 - "Turn on your lights then go off your property and look".
 - Current page 3: Change to "You can protect this view"

New Business

Annual update needed annually by October 1st. OSP are in a "donut hole" because we were approved in September, so could be argued that we do not have to do this. However, the committee members wanted to do a new one this year to see how we have improved. IDA required topics for the annual report:

- **DATA:** Weasner has been collecting information.
- **current info** - contact information
- **"YES:** to the question " do you plan to apply for **tier status update** in the future (Going for the Gold.)
- **Visitors:** Need estimated number of site visitors at the Park for all events - October 2014 through September 2015. **Park visitation.** How many participated in **Dark Sky programming:** Weasner has this latter.
- **Lighting** changes
- **Sky quality measurements.** - Mike has gotten very few because of the weather - hasn't changed much.
- **Outreach reports**
- **Arts and culture** - music, photography, etc.
- Media coverage - community relations.
- Update on changes in lighting. (Circle-K. not done yet).

It was reported that the Architecture Landscape Committee at Saddlebrooke Ranch are adopting the Pinal County Outdoor Lighting Code. and will try to get neighbors and the Association to bring some of the lights into compliance. Weasner is willing to speak to them.

Next meeting

All regular meeting will be on first Thursday of each starting September 3 at Saddlebrooke Ranch. Weasner will possibly have a preliminary draft of the OSP IDSP annual update document ready.

Community events

October 30, Cascabel is having mesquite milling.

Auerbach: see oracletown.com. for GLOW and Oracle Historical Society events.

EVENTS

Dessert in the Desert, Friday, September 11, 2015, 3-5pm

Documentary Film "Power's War", Friday, September 11, 2015, 7pm

GLOW, a nighttime art experience, Saturday, September 19, 2015, 6-10pm

American Flag Ranch Celebration, Saturday, September 26, 2015, 11am-4pm

GLOW, a nighttime art experience, Saturday, September 26, 2015, 7-11pm

October

Oracle Piano Society, Dinner and Concert, Saturday, October 10, 2015, 7:45pm

GLOW, a nighttime art experience, Saturday, October 17, 2015, 7-11pm

GLOW, a nighttime art experience, Saturday, October 24, 2015, 7-11pm

33rd Annual Oracle Run, Saturday, October 31, 2015

There is also a category called CLASSES. some art and photography classes are listed there, but none from OSP or ODSC.

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair