

Oracle Dark Skies Committee

Minutes September 3, 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; Chip Parfet, cparfet@gmail.com; Anna Lands, healing@rnsmtc.com. Charlotte Poole charpoole@q.com; Jennifer Rinio jrinio@azstateparks.gov

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Weasner, Chair, in the Mesa Room.

Updates, announcements

- Chip moved and Charlotte seconded that Mike be reimbursed for the “No light pollution” buttons at \$40.00 and \$4.32 cents for the jar.
- A possible fund-raising method was discussed - bookmarks with “Advice from the Dark Sky.” The matter was tabled.
- A future fundraising idea was raised by Anna - She showed a picture in fabric from Mary McFarland in Maine which could be made into a postcard, etc. The artist will donate the copyright.
- Weasner reported that Stan Bembenek has asked whether at the upcoming event by Friends of Oracle State Park - Dessert in the Desert - it would be okay to raffle off a visit to Weasner’s observatory and that had been approved. So, could the committee do the same? It was said that probably, for legal reasons, the committee could not hold a raffle. Will have to investigate.
- Proposed committee Brochure - a discussion of Redies’ changes, sent with Rinio, was held and other suggestions offered, duly noted by Weasner. At \$1.25 per sheet., the committee doesn’t have the money now to print these. Lands will ask at UA regarding lower prices.
- Business Cards - Mike passed out samples. At OfficeMax - 100 for \$10.00. Paper ones could be used with Weasner printing them and Lands cutting them.
- Parfet moved and N. Brodeur seconded to make 100 cards for \$10.00.
- The Circle-K manager says he gives up on trying to continue to work with the regional office to get the lights corrected. He asked if Weasner would contact the regional office of Circle-K. Weasner is trying to do that. He’s approaching Corporate HQ.
- Good news: The Jones billboard company, which has changed their billboard lights on 77 outside Oracle – after being told to do so by ADOT following information from this committee – has also corrected the billboard at mileage post 101/102 up highway 79 north of Oracle Junction. Weasner sent a letter thanking them and sent a copy to Barentine of the IDA.
- Rinio says she has information on a lighting company that does lighting for parks and recreation – volleyball, tennis courts, etc. She would like the equestrian center west of Oracle to see it. The lights are 30% more expensive up front but save money in the long run.
- Weasner said that some companies have lights with seals from the IDA: Home Depot, Lowe’s.
- A workshop was proposed for the “Go for the Gold” campaign: DIY non-polluting lighting for your property. Keith Krueger (IDA member in northern Pinal County) makes shields, so maybe he can demonstrate at such a workshop.
- Pinal County Dark Skies Coalition may possibly meet in the late afternoon on Oct. 10. However, only one response has come back so far, from Celestial Adventures

Public Outreach

Weasner reported on other parks in Arizona that are moving forward to become International Dark Skies Parks

- Red Rock SP is in progress
- Karchner Caverns SP is about to submit
- Two other parks are considering it

Future Events

- Sept. 26 American Flag Ranch ODSC table: 11 - 4 Parfet; 1:30 - Auerbach; Wendy; Rinio is singing at 1:30.
- October 10 - Star Party 4-6 Live Music; IDA table & ODSC table. After 6:00, the telescopes and viewing will be available [through 10 pm?]. Reports from a previous Star Party: People from Phoenix thought it wasn't organized enough. The telescopes need to be confined to the a certain area - the patio and a path to the parking lot. This is called, in the business: Managing the "Observing field"
- 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 beginning astrophotography 4 - 6:30.
- Nov. 14 - 15. Annual membership meeting of IDA. See website.
- Adam Block events: Rinio and Auerbach are organizing this. Possible art show in November, with presentation one of the weekend days during the show.
- March 3, 2016 - Appropriate time for a Star Party ?
- 4 to 10 April. 2016: International Dark Sky Week. Invited IDA to do something at OSP. Possible workshop?

Old Business

- Income & expenses form for the ODSA: OKAY "Office expenses" for clarity and another category should be "sales" instead of "office sales"
- Okay to put a collection jar for ODSC at OSP events.

Annual update

- Weasner presented a draft for a annual report to IDA.
- Needs numbers for events
- IDA has outlined content needed
- Weasner will send out the draft to be finalized by email.

Next meeting: The next meeting, now scheduled for the first Thursday of each month, is Oct. 1, 2015

Adjournment: Parfet moved; Lands seconded to adjourn.

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair