

Oracle Dark Skies Committee
Minutes December 1, 2016
Kannally Ranch House, Oracle State Park

Attendees: Mike Weasner 520-289-3402, mweasner@mac.com; Chip Parfet 303-257-9475, cparfet@gmail.com; Wendy Ostrander, orocle@q.com; Jennifer Rinio, jrinio@azstateparks.gov

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's report: See report attached. \$241.18 balance. Parfet was able to cash the \$150.00 check from the El Rancho Robles star party in October. No expenses. Funds are now available to get more "No Light Pollution" pins and begin thinking about T-Shirt designs for selling.

Report on previous events/activities

- None were held in November.

Upcoming Events

- December 18. Celestial Concert by the Oracle Piano Society at the Oracle Center for the Arts. The concert is at 3:00; a program about the "Bethlehem Star" at 5:00 by Fr. Chris Corbally. Dark Sky viewing will follow, approximately 6-8pm. Weasner attended the Nov. 19 OPS Board meeting to finalize details, including the telescope placements. Volunteer parking will be on the south side of the building, with telescopes to the southeast of the building. This should provide a shielded area for viewing without too much interference from vehicles leaving the event. There will be approximately 40 minutes of music. Adam Block from the Mt Lemmon SkyCenter will talk about his astrophotography between the numbers. Food is still TBD. SkyCenter, IDA, and ODSC will have tables. Volunteers won't have to pay for the concert. Three members of the Saddlebrooke SkyGazers Club and Weasner will be bringing telescopes. Weasner will send out a specific request for volunteers on 5 December. Volunteer names must be provided to the OPS in order for those people to get in free.
- March 18 - Star Party at Oracle State Park which includes the third annual celebration of the dark sky designation. Weasner will give his "Beginner Digital Camera Astrophotography Workshop".
- September 2017 - The second star party at Oracle State Park.

Other

- Weasner will be attending the IDA General Meeting in Tucson, Saturday, 3 December 2016.
- The proposal (see attached) to formalize a relationship between the Oracle Dark Skies Committee and the Friends of the Oracle State Park is to be presented at the FOSP meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 1:00 at Oracle State Park.
- At the Super Moon OSP event, Chris Mobley mentioned that he can repair a telescope that the park has. Mobley still needs to come by the Park to see the telescope to prepare a repair estimate.
- Weasner reminded Rinio about doing SQM readings at the Park.
- A reporter/producer from Arizona Illustrated (NPR/PBS in Tucson) will be coming to the Park on Saturday, 3 December, to prepare a program for broadcast on TV. He specifically called out interest in the Park's "International Dark Sky Park" designation. As Weasner will be at the IDA General Meeting, Parfet said he would be available to be interviewed.

- Casey Eagan, a local former teacher, has expressed interest in helping develop six programs about the impacts of light pollution in six areas:

- Human Health
- Astronomy
- Safety
- Wildlife
- Energy Costs
- Cultural Heritage

Unfortunately, he was not able to attend this month's meeting so the action has been deferred until the next meeting (5 January).

- Rinio mentioned that the Park is developing an app for use by Park visitors to provide them with interpretative details as they tour the Park. It will take about a year to develop. Weasner pointed out the possibly slowdown speed for app content if using the Park's DSL Internet connection. Rinio will check that. Rinio also mentioned, and the Committee agreed, that the app should include Dark Sky information. The Committee, and probably IDA, can help with collecting that information.

Adjournment & future meetings

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.
- The next meeting is Thursday, January 5, at Saddlebrooke Ranch.
- Meetings in 2017, first Thursday of each month, 6:30pm:
 - Saddlebrooke Ranch, La Hacienda Club: Jan, Apr, July, Oct
 - OSP: Feb, May, Aug, and Nov
 - Saddlebrooke, Cactus Room: March, June, Sep, and Dec 2017
(Spitzer will advertise Saddlebrooke meetings to the community; Parfet will advertise Ranch meetings to its community.)

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair

Proposed motion (or resolution) to be proposed at the Oracle Dark Skies Committee and at the Friends of Oracle State Park for adoption, or amendment

Whereas the Oracle Dark Skies Committee (ODSC) began with the support and virtual sponsorship of the Friends of Oracle State Park (FOSP);

Whereas ODSC and FOSP have similar if not identical missions to support Oracle State Park (OSP) and its Environmental Education programs;

Whereas ODSC and FOSP wish to continue their relationship and facilitate support for both organizations and for OSP;

Whereas FOSP is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and an Arizona non profit corporation;

It is moved and seconded that,

1. ODSC continue to function and operate in conjunction with and like a committee of FOSP;
2. Members of ODSC are not required to be members of FOSP, but are welcome to join;
3. ODSC shall designate a member to be a voting member of the Board of FOSP, and the President of FOSP shall designate that person as an at-large member;
4. Donations to ODSC shall be made to FOSP and the FOSP Treasurer shall keep track of these designated donations, but shall not open any separate bank account;
5. FOSP shall make available funds derived from ODSC donations to support ODSC and other ODSC activities as designated by ODSC;
6. FOSP is not limited in its ability to support other activities of ODSC beyond the amount of its designated donations, but consistent with the mission of both organizations;
7. ODSC may support activities of FOSP that are consistent with its mission;
8. The FOSP Treasurer's regular reports at meetings of the FOSP Board shall specify the balance of any designated donations to ODSC.