

**Attendees:** Mike Weasner (520-289-3402, mweasner@mac.com); Renee Beste, 425-478-6418, beverlybeste@gmail.com; Ruth and Gary Warren (503-308-8864, gary.ruth@gmail.com); Joann Johnson (269-214-2908, jjj@mqqn.net); Richard Spitzer (520-825-3116, rspitzer@whhsi.net); Chris Mobley (425-239-2938, chrismobleytelus@msn.com); Jennifer Rinio (520-896-2425, jrinio@azstateparks.gov)

Weasner called the meeting to order at 6:45pm. As there were several new attendees Weasner gave the background of the Oracle Dark Skies Committee, its work to have Oracle State Park designated as an IDA "International Dark Sky Park" (IDSP) in 2014, and its ongoing efforts to address Light Pollution.

Minutes were approved as sent out to members previously. Auerbach, who has been the secretary/recorder since the Committee was founded in 2014, needs to step aside. A volunteer is solicited for this position.

### Reports

**Treasurer:** Acting Treasurer Mike Weasner gave the treasurers report.

Expenses = 0.

The Current balance for ODSC is \$275.00.

### Community action:

- Weasner talked about the IDA requirement for community action to continue the IDSP designation.
- Weasner has been approached about problems with light pollution that people in the community have seen. Mary Helen Vasquez, ODSC member, has asked him to help write a letter to a company that has a light glaring into her house. Weasner has taken day and night photographs of the light and will be meeting with her on Friday, 3 March, to draft a letter to the business.
- Mobley mentioned that he had attended the Oracle Park (not the Oracle State Park) planning open house in January 2017. Pinal County wants to remodel the park and had invited University of Arizona students to propose designs. Students presented five designs. One design had a light pillar but all others were dark skies compliant. Four plans addressed the dark skies issue specifically. One had a playground with playground equipment that represented the planets in the solar system. It also had a sky observing platform. (Weasner noted that he had also attended one of the open house events. See last month's ODSC meeting minutes.)

### Announcements

- Mobley continues to work the Park's failed Vixen telescope mount. Parts are needed.
- Rinio is doing dark sky readings at OSP. She has readings to submit to Weasner for inclusion in the annual report (due 1 October). All readings are still in the Silver Tier.

### Past Events:

**Sat, Feb 11: Adventures with the Moon. 7:00 - 9:30.** The talk and participation by Park volunteer Dick Boyer at OSP. ODSC had an information table and telescope support was provided by the Saddlebrooke SkyGazers Club. Clouds were a problem but the event was well received by attendees.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Sunday, March 18: Second Anniversary Celebration of receiving the designation as an International Dark Sky Park**

- **2:00 - 4:00** Weasner giving a class on Beginner Digital Astrophotography from 2-4 pm. There will be door prizes to some lucky registered participants. After dark the participants will be able to practice what they learned, weather permitting.
- **4:30 - 6:30** Music on the patio. ODSC, IDA, & FOSP tables after workshop & during music.
- **7:00 - 9:00** Evening star party, weather permitting (the last two times there was a star party, the weather didn't allow for viewing).
- Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association will be doing telescope support. SaddleBrooke SkyGazers Club is also invited to provide telescopes.

**Tues, March 21. Family reading night at Mountain Vista School, Oracle, 6:00 - 9:00**

Dennis Blauser, Superintendent of Schools, asked for a star party during this event at Mountain Vista School. They want to rotate people into classrooms and outside to use telescopes. There will be an ODSC table to pitch light pollution issues to the parents and teachers. Blauser definitely supports dark skies. Saddlebrooke SkyGazers Club will assist. Weasner will be meeting with Blauser the week of 6 March to finalize details, which he will send out.

**Possible Future Events:**

- A **Star Party and Camping event** at OSP has been discussed at past meetings but will be deferred until the infrastructure is in place for camping at OSP — late summer or next year.
- A **Southern Pinal County Star Party** at Saddlebrooke Ranch, was also discussed. Weasner mentioned that it could be an alternative to the Grand Canyon Star Party held in June for those who are not able to travel to the Grand Canyon. However, a summer event would lose some residents to travel. Other months were discussed but no decisions were reached.
- A **Star Party is scheduled for September**, OSP.
- **Saddlebrooke "Health Night Out"**. These are held monthly at Saddlebrooke for residents. Weasner volunteered to give a presentation on Light Pollution, which would address its human health effects. A star party could also be part of the event. Details to be determined.

**Other business:**

**The Committee has been discussing developing educational programs on the light pollution six topics.** The project has been in abeyance waiting for further commitment from Casey Egan, who had expressed interest in working on this project. Rinio mentioned that Egan was moving out of the area. We need to look for other volunteers to help pull this together.

**Next Meeting**

6 April: Saddlebrooke Ranch, La Hacienda Club, 6:30pm

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair

ODSC Income & Expenses

2017 ODSC Income										
Date	Item	Description	Amount	Donations & Fundraising	Sales	Outreach & Education	Events & Projects	FOSP Donations	ODSC Grants	
01/01/17	2016 Carry Over balance		\$24.00							
01/28/17	AZ Trail Oracle Rumble	FOSP table	\$10.00	\$10.00						
	<b>Actual Income</b>		<b>\$34.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>									
2017 ODSC Expenses										
Date	Item	Description	Amount	Fundraising	Office Expenses	Outreach & Education	Events & Projects	Equipment Purchase	Equipment Maintenance	Travel
	<b>Actual Expenses</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>									
2017 ODSC Net Balance			<b>\$34.00</b>							
1/13/17	Cash Balance		\$24.00	to FOSP	Available balance retained by FOSP:			\$265.18		
	* pending reimbursement to Weasner									