

Oracle Dark Skies Committee  
Minutes November 5, 2015

Attendees: Mike Weasner 520-289-3402, [mweasner@mac.com](mailto:mweasner@mac.com); Evaline Auerbach 520-610-8742, [evalineja@icloud.com](mailto:evalineja@icloud.com); Wendy Ostrander, 520-896-2951; Zenia Fera 773-474-6821, [xenya3923@hotmail.com](mailto:xenya3923@hotmail.com); Charlotte Poole 520-850-4641, [charpoole@q.com](mailto:charpoole@q.com); Stan Bembenek, 520-896-2464 [ahab@iinet.com](mailto:ahab@iinet.com); Jennifer Rinio, 520-896-2425, [jrinio@azstateparks.gov](mailto:jrinio@azstateparks.gov)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Treasurers report from Weasner:

- Donations at the Star Party were \$21.00.
- Fera moved that Mike take the \$21.00 to be reimbursed for money he advanced to pay for the business cards. Poole seconded.
- The balance in the PayPal account is \$37.85.
- The Committee might not get \$50.00 for volunteering at the recent event because such events need to have been set ahead of time.
- Shall we get more pins? Only four are left. Fera will ask if anyone from Saddlebrooke Ranch has a pin printing machine.
- Rinio announced that as a result of her singing with Ric Volante at the last Farmer's Market of the season, and because Volante had wanted to donate the tip-jar proceeds to a good cause, and she suggested ODSC — the committee received \$70.00. "Thank you" to Jennifer and Ric and the community for their generosity.

Rinio presented Dale Readies' editorial suggestions for the brochure. Readies had said that we should be sure that the medical effects claimed for lowering light pollution are real: Weasner said that John Barentine of IDA had recently tweeted that : "On our website, there's a link to articles about the effects of light pollution." The harmful effects of light pollution are real.

Weasner presented an update on the problematic lighting at the west Circle K in Oracle.

- Sept. 19 - an email from Circle K corporate to Weasner said they would be "back to you soon."
- Oct. 30 - Weasner wrote back to them; he is going to let it percolate for a month then write a letter to the CEO.
- Specific complaint: One of the lights at this station is missing its globe and the glare is so bad that as a driver Weasner reported that could not see in the rain when approaching the Circle K.

Weasner reported that a Pinal County Dark Skies Coalition kick-off meeting had been held before the star party. Separate minutes on that meeting were sent out.

The Star Party had low attendance, but people who attended thought it was a good time. The event didn't get any publicity outside the local area.

The Photography workshops had low attendance but the people who did attend were very interested.

Weasner's Astrophotography workshop was short as the evening was cloudy. He would like to do it again, when there is a star party in the evening. Jennifer agreed with March 5, 2016.

Stan will do his nature photography workshop again too - date to be determined.

The details for the November 7 astrophotography opening were decided upon:

People will bring food by 11:00 am and will be allowed into the park to do so. At 12:00 noon, Weasner will give a presentation about the pictures and about the photographer, Adam Block. Weasner took the names of the pictures and will look up information for his presentation.

There may be a chance to do something at OSP in conjunction with the IDA for the "International Dark Sky Week" April 4 - 10, 2016.

People have called in about visiting for dark skies during Thanksgiving week and were told about using the remote parking lot. The committee discussed the possibility that Arizona State Parks might want to close the parking lot after dark. Rangers have to go up and clean off the lot and it is not known if everyone who uses the lot pays the fee. On the other hand, people need a place to go to view the dark skies.

Two different postcards with photos are now available for sale at the Oracle State Park gift shop: one showing star trails over the Kannally Ranch House (taken by Weasner) and one showing the Ranch House in the daytime.

Auerbach asked whether it would be possible for OSP to have available on its website the viewing forecast for astronomy. Saddlebrooke has one; Weasner has one for his observatory. Rinio said that she would check if the OSP website can use this very localized information. Weasner will send Rinio more information.

At the last meeting it had been announced that the South Korean Firefly Park, the officials of which had come to OSP in January of 2015, had been approved as an International Dark Sky Park. At the January meeting, the possibility of Firefly Park and OSP becoming "Sister Parks" was discussed. IDA does not have a sister parks program currently, but perhaps Oracle and the Korea Park could become leaders in that. Weasner presented a letter from David, who was the interpreter for the group at their January visit; the letter (see attachment) thanked Oracle State Park for their help. The IDA has a webpage for each International Dark Sky place, so Weasner can see if there was an official park website to contact about the sister park possibility.

Red Rock State Park has asked Oracle State Park for a letter of support to include in their International Dark Sky Park nomination package. Weasner composed a letter and read the letter to ODSC, which approved by acclamation. Weasner will send the letter.

Kartchner Caverns is also in the process of getting an IDA designation.

Weasner will be a judge for Mt. Vista Science Fair again this year. The Fair is 3 December but the judging is 2 December.

The ODSC agreed to conduct a sky gazing event for a private party at El Rancho Robles. He will be there the Dec. 29 or 30. Weasner will take his own telescope. Poole and Auerbach agreed to help at the event. Details will be sent after the date is confirmed.

The committee agreed to skip the monthly meeting for December. The next meeting is January 7 [Auerbach's birthday].

The meeting adjourned at 7:33.

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair

**From:** 정원길 jwk1963@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Re: Congratulations on Yeongyang Firefly Eco Park becoming an IDA IDSP!  
**Date:** November 3, 2015 at 23:22  
**To:** Michael Weasner mweasner@mac.com

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Hello Michael,

Thank you very much for the e-mail.  
I still remember all the moments and warm greetings at the Oracle State Park.  
I appreciate all the help and support for the our designation.

Next time I visit Tucson, I hope I can visit Oracle State Park and meet you again.

David

2015-11-03 1:48 GMT+09:00 Michael Weasner <[mweasner@mac.com](mailto:mweasner@mac.com)>:

Oracle State Park, the Friends of Oracle State Park, and the Oracle Dark Skies Committee were honored to have your delegation visit in January 2015, and we all extend our congratulations to you and the Team who worked to achieve this important designation.

Mike Weasner  
Chair, Oracle Dark Skies Committee  
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