

Oracle Dark Skies Committee  
Minutes December 4, 2014 - 6:30 pm.

Attended: Mike Weasner, Evaline Auerbach, Wendy Ostrander, Charlotte Poole, Stan Bembenek, Chip Parfet, Jennifer Rinio, Mary Helen Vasquez, Waldo Vasquez

Mike Weasner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The previous meeting minutes were approved as sent out.

Outreach:

- Weasner attended the November 19 Pinal County Code Enforcement and Compliance Meeting in Oracle. He said that Paula Mullenix, Code Compliance Officer has office hours at the local Justice court building every Tuesday from 8:30 to 3:30. The number is 520-866-7874. (website: <http://www.pinalcountyz.gov/communitydevelopment/codecompliance/pages/home.aspx>) The office is required by law to investigate once a complaint, with address, is filed. Also, the office now has IDA brochures about dark skies to hand out.
- Weasner attended the November 21 Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition meeting in Dudleyville. Bryan Martyn, Executive Director of Arizona State Parks, was to be the speaker. However, Martyn had a family emergency, so Weasner ended up as the alternate speaker. He spoke about the designation of Oracle State Park as an International Dark Sky Park and what that would mean to the area.
- Weasner participated in a telecon which reinforced the Dark Skies plan for the UNESCO "International Year of Light" public outreach program in 2015. The plan is to emphasize six topics, each for two months: January - Health; March - Astronomy; May - Safety; July - Wildlife; September - Energy; Nov. - Cultural History. Weasner suggested to the telecon participants that the nighttime satellite image of the whole earth be automated to show the annual cost of light pollution. Knowing that the waste of power with all that energy going upward is about \$3 billion, he concluded that it could be determined how much was wasted in a certain area. What was needed was to count the white pixels in the known area and divide that into the dollar amount for the country shown. He proposed this idea online and received word the previous day (December 3) from a man in Norway about the plan: "It works".
- Weasner was invited to El Rancho Robles Ranch on Nov. 17 to meet with a group of 50 travel agencies CEOs from around the USA and Bermuda to discuss opportunities for tourism in Oracle. He presented a "little star party" using two telescopes provided by the ranch.
- "Arizona Trail News" newsletter for Autumn 2014 contained an article on page 10 called "Arizona Famous for Dark Skies".

Upcoming:

- A South Korean contingent, coming to the International Dark-Sky Association HQ in Tucson, will be visiting OSP on January 10, 2015, in the afternoon and evening. The Park needs to provide a reception with refreshments.
- The Star Party on January 24, 2015, is coming up. The donated telescopes may not have arrived by that time, but there may be enough from sources who have attended previous Star Parties. Schedule: 3 - 5 pm. Music in the living room for the public; Pot luck on the middle patio (with heater) for the committee. 5 - 6 pm, Speaker Ken Zoll of Verde Valley Archeological Society will present a program on Native American astronomical culture.
  - Perhaps the Gift Shop would like to sell model "Galileo" telescopes.
  - The event will be on the Oracle State Parks website.

- March 21 Dedication event - to be planned
- IDA Dark Sky Park logo is now on the OSP website.
- A concept of the display to be used for internal and external events was discussed, with suggestions for additions and changes.
  - A total of three such displays are needed: One for the Park, permanent; one for the Committee to take out to events; One for the Visitor's Center in Oracle.
  - Mike will make a dummy from comments for presentation at the next meeting.

Next meeting January 8, 2015. At the Kannally House 6:30 pm.

Signed,

Evaline J. Auerbach, Recorder

Signed,

Mike Weasner, Chair