

ROCC Committee Report

Committee: Dark Sky Committee (DSC)

Date: 12/7/2021

Topic: Year to Date (Annual 2021) Report by Committee Chair, Val Szwarc

Background (bullet points):

- After nearly a 2-year effort IDA has certified Top of the Pines as an International Dark Sky “Park” – thank you to the TOP Board of Directors, Ouray County BOCC, and ROCC that made this possible!
- TOP Dark Sky infrastructure improvements (educational open deck observatory) concept being fleshed out – ROCC grant support may be requested in 2022-23.
- Committee continues to work with Ridgway library to fix their non-compliant lighting!
- Committee submitted to Ridgway Town Manager first annual Dark Sky report that the Town sent to IDA.
- Committee worked with TOP to finalize and send Dark Sky Application in late August.
- RSS School adjusted lighting that eliminated dusk to dawn lighting, additional measures will be explored pending availability of resources.
- Major Dark Sky education event held at TOP Aug 9-12 with nearly 100 attendees over 4 days.
- BOCC approved Dark Sky Resolution pledging support for the Dark Sky Initiative at TOP.
- BOCC appears interested in upgrading County Land Use Code concerning exterior Lighting.

Issues (bullet points):

- As part of Ridgway’s 1st annual Dark Sky report preparations, it was determined that Ridgway’s newly remodeled Library has significant non-compliant exterior lighting issues.
- Study updating (Ridgway Secondary School) RSS lighting has been pending additional resources.
- Looking for additional active Dark Sky Committee members

Possible Action Options (bullet points):

- Both committee co-chairs presented preliminary solutions to Library Board of Trustees to recommend compliant solutions(\$4-5K) Refined solutions presented with costs estimates reduced to a few thousand \$ - mostly installation by electrician.
- One option being seriously considered is to provide a small (\$250) ROCC challenge grant to Library as incentive to implement a Dark Sky solution that provides the library an opportunity to set a dark sky solution example for the community. (Contingent upon implement solutions)

Recommended Action (in the form of a motion if necessary):

TOP Open Deck Observatory Concept

(Under consideration by TOP BOD)

