

## April 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes Jonestown Night Sky Advocacy Monthly Meeting

Called meeting to Order at 5:32pm

Attending: Mark Grossman, Lecia Ellis, Meshell Counterman, Anne and David Morley,

Approved March Meeting Minutes- will approve February next May meeting.

Treasurer report: Bank Balance is \$2484.67. Mark will deposit \$150 donations from Cajun Fest in bank account.

### President's Report-10 Minutes

SQM Report-redoing readings near next new moon

New Moon Dates

### Be a Star:

Ask Darla where chamber gets the plaques. We have been approved to add The City of Jonestown to the plaques.

### General Updates/Open Discussion-30 Minutes

- IDSC Application submitted 2/28/2023.
- Friends of Nameless School-Patti did a presentation on JNSA handed out a letter about us, lighting info, Children's books, and contact information. 11/12 in attendance. Patti said it would be a great place for an event.
- IDSW, thanks to Meshell, Patti, and Paul, we have advertised on the Marquee, received a "Proclamation" from COJ, event at the library. Carol Heath agreed to read "Lights Out" at story time on Thursday April 20. Colleen ordered four new Childrens books for the library. Paul and Patti Johnson donated six children's books. Books recommended by the IDA. Gaylon created an informative Night Sky display in the library for IDSW. Thank you, Gaylon! Meshell sent in our proclamation to IDA. IDA was aiming for 100 proclamations.
- Lighting Consultation Info with Andrew-Meshell. He is willing to consult for the City.
- Meeting with COJ May 1<sup>st</sup> -Meshell, Lecia and Mark will attend.
- **\*\*Agenda for meeting is below.**
- Darla chamber update on member directory- moved to next month.
- Lecia put JNSA on Next Door Neighbor as a non-profit environmental group. Page needs some work. They only allow 2 posts a month. The page looks good!
- **Vanessa Guadiana** is new to the city of Jonestown. *"I put together my GIS know how to implement the world artificial brightness data and some city points with a glow akin to light pollution and made this poster for your group. I'm also building out the Jonestown GIS website hub so I'm hoping to add a map about our local light pollution as well."* Flyer/poster attached.
- Texas IDA changed their name to DarkSky Texas. IDA is in the process of changing their name as well. Lecia will keep us posted.
- Website needs to be updated with all our latest accomplishments including photos; Proclamation IDSW, Library, Cajun Fest, Nameless School. What about creating a login on our website or a place where we can store our agenda's, minutes, photos, letters, letterheads, important documents. Thoughts.
  - This was a good discussion. Anne will set up a Dropbox folder on her account inviting the primary members of this committee. Lecia will be talking to Ann Marie to see if we have storage options through our website.
- Cajun Fest Takeaways-Meshell
  - Arrive 1 hour early to set up.
  - There were 3,000 people at Cajun fest, which is a similar number from last year.
  - What do we do with the emails for volunteers that we collect? Who has all of these sign-up sheets from past events?
  - Dog treats and water bowl
  - Candy bowl

- T-shirt sizes were wonky. Will work on future purchases.
- Sandwich board display needed. Mark will research.
- Acrylic stands for brochures. Need to be heavy duty.
- Post future events in booth.

**Next meeting date on May 15, 2023 at 5:30pm.**

**Adjourned at 7:12pm.**

**\*\* Agenda for meeting with the City on May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## **Jonestown Night Sky Advocacy**

RE: Notes for meeting with Mr. Steve Jones – Jonestown City Administrator and Cynthia Jolly - Development Services

May 1, 2023, 10:00 am

### **Introductions: Our Committee & Mission**

### **Brief Synopsis of JNSA Accomplishments to Date**

- Organized events, festival participation, HOA/POA functions, North Shore Chamber of commerce
- Assisting HOA's with lighting compliance issues
- Participating, working with other existing IDA certified communities
- Engaging regional experts in lighting, and compliance
- Working with local utilities to achieve compliance.
- Share the City Owned Lighting Inventory Database we created
- Submitting our formal application for initial IDA review

### **Purpose and Desired Outcomes**

- To open communications between our committee and the COJ
- Ensure collaborative, cohesive and additive efforts towards our goals.
- Designate a key contact for COJ and JNSA moving forward.

### **Discuss JNSA committee and COJ – Perceived Issues & Obstacles**

#### **JNSA**

- Adding additional Committee members or part-time volunteers. How do we correctly address this issue? Do we need council approval, etc.?
- Improving communication with COJ council and staff

- Improving educational opportunities for staff and community
- Staying focused on mission and priorities

## COJ

- Processes
  - Who is responsible for governance of the new lighting ordinance?
    - How should citizens deal with current lighting complaints or issues, through COJ or HOA/POA if one is present?
    - Does the city follow up with HOA/POA's to confirm lighting or other construction updates to their CCR's?
    - Do HOA/POA's have to conform to COJ ordinances? What entity is responsible and ultimately governs and enforces
  - What are the correct procedures for new construction, remodeling, current residential and commercial properties?
  - How does COJ currently address ETJ and Jonestown residents just outside the ETJ boundaries?
  - What resources are available to manage the correct procedures?
- Educating staff
  - Regarding ordinance details and interpretation
  - Lighting terminology
  - Proper community communications
  - Proactive messaging
  - Enforcement protocols

## **Miscellaneous**

- Who should residents contact with regards to.
  - Lighting on cellphone towers
  - Large energy pole lights
  - Commercial construction lighting i.e., Brushy Creek Pumping
- Are there additional items to address in our existing ordinance? For example, string or bistro lighting. Should they be shielded, be on a timer or does the ordinance already address residential and commercial "lights out" timing?
- Other thoughts, questions, concerns or comments?

## **In Closing**

To achieve our mutual goals; complete our original mission and deliver a final IDA certification to the city, we must move forward together, communicate more effectively and be aware of directional changes, new requirements, legal updates, issues or concerns. This is just our first step in an ongoing process to maintain Dark Sky Certification. Let's make it count.

We would welcome someone from the city to sit in on one of our JNSA committee meetings or schedule a short zoom meeting for an informal introduction to our team.

Thank you for agreeing to meet. How can we best move forward together?

JNSA Committee Members