



## **CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE APRIL 2023**

**April 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM  
0110 Whispering Pines Circle, Blue River, CO**

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### **MINUTES**

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**The public is welcome to attend the meeting either in person or via Zoom.**

**The Zoom link is available on the Town website:**

**<https://townofblueriver.colorado.gov/citizen-advisory-committee>**

**Please note that seating at Town Hall is limited.**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

PRESENT

Trustee Liaison Kelly Finley

Vice Chair Trevor Kraus

Bruce Queen

Jodie Wiley

Chair Charlie Brittz

Stephen Kucera

Also present: Town Manager Michelle Eddy; and guest Aaron Watson, Colorado Chapter International Dark Skies Association.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Queen, Seconded by Chair Brittz.

Voting Yea: Vice Chair Kraus, Queen, Wiley, Chair Brittz

Voting Abstaining: Kucera

A. Minutes from March 14, 2023

#### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

## B. Dark Skies Discussion

The Committee reviewed the information on dark skies including requirements to join and be considered for designation, the town's current ordinance and reviewed independent evaluations conducted by the members of the committee.

The group shared their results from the neighborhood analysis. Discussion that overall the houses seemed to be in compliance with a few (less than two per area) in non-compliance. The feeling was there was not a lot of light pollution in Blue River.

Reviewed the current ordinance. The big difference to be designated as a dark sky community, would be all homes, not just new construction, would need to come into compliance. It was questioned as to what the benefits would be for pursuing a dark sky designation. Aaron Watson noted one benefit would be the quality of life with a natural night sky; health benefits and he noted cultures are changing to wanting better lighting.

It was noted that many of the issues are from second owners and visitors mostly out of lack of knowledge and perhaps there is a need for more education. It was noted that enforcement and mandating is an issue. It was discussed how the compliance is calculated and if a property once or twice a year is non-compliant, how is it enforced. It was discussed that Blue River is already dark but the ordinance would need to ensure that it remains dark.

The Committee made the recommendation to add information to the website and with short-term rental licenses encouraging and educating on what can be done.

The Committee discussed the survey requested by the Board of Trustees and what should be included. Suggestion to include one to two sentences of a background with links and information that would be included.

Questions to ask:

1. Do you consider your neighborhood compliant?
2. Is light pollution in your neighborhood a concern?
3. Would you be interested in receiving information on dark skies or the initiative concerning environment, health, etc.?
4. Are you familiar with our current natural night sky ordinance?
5. Do you feel the current ordinance needs to be improved?
6. If you feel there needs to be improvements, what would you like to add?
7. Note any concerns that you would like addressed.
8. Do you wish for Blue River do seek a dark sky designation.

Trustee Finley asked Aaron about risk to the Town for being dark sky compliant if someone is injured crossing the road due to lack of lighting. Aaron noted the goal of dark skies is quality of lighting and not necessarily removing all lights. He noted there are engineers that can come in and assess and make recommendations for improvements. Suggestion to add in note in introduction to impress the designation is focused on quality of lighting not necessarily taking away lighting.

Discussion to include a video from Aaron or dark skies for introduction with the survey. The goal will be to send out the survey the next week for dark sky week and earth day.

Discussion of possibly hosting an event this summer in the park in July or August.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **C. Wildfire & Weed Mitigation Events and Grants**

Manager Eddy provided an update on the events, as well as \$405,000 grant application submitted to the Colorado State Forest Service. The Wildfire Defensible Space & Weed Mitigation Lesson in the park will be June 29th.

#### **V. ADJOURN**

Motion made by Kucera, Seconded by Chair Brittz.

Voting Yea: Vice Chair Kraus, Kucera, Queen, Wiley, Chair Brittz

#### **NEXT MEETING - May 9, 2023**

Respectfully Submitted:

Michelle Eddy, MMC

Town Clerk