



CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**June 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM
0110 Whispering Pines Circle, Blue River, CO**

AGENDA

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from April 11, 2023

III. NEW BUSINESS

B. Review Dark Skies Survey and provide recommendations to the Trustees.

C. Develop Grant Incentives Program

D. Review upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

IV. ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING -



CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE APRIL 2023

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

MINUTES

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

Constant Contact Survey Results

Campaign Name: Untitled Survey Page Created 2023/04/14, 3:17:16 PM MDT

Survey Starts: 399

Survey Submits: 151

Export Date: 05/06/2023 07:47 AM

OPEN QUESTION

What is your Blue River physical address?

██████████
 ██████████
 ████████ ██████████

151 Response(s)

OPEN QUESTION

Please provide your email address:

████████████████████
 ████████████████████
 ████████████████████

151 Response(s)

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Do you consider your neighborhood dark sky compliant?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			59	39%
No			92	60%
Total Responses			151	100%

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Is light pollution in your neighborhood a concern?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			68	45%
No			83	54%
Total Responses			151	100%

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Would you be interested in receiving information on dark skies or the initiative concerning the environment, health, etc.?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			80	52%
No			71	47%

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Are you familiar with the Town's current natural night sky ordinance?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			95	62%
No			56	37%
Total Responses			151	100%

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Do you feel the current ordinance needs to be improved?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			71	47%
No			80	52%
Total Responses			151	100%

OPEN QUESTION

If you feel there needs to be improvements, what would you like to add?

I will read it first! My guess is that the ordinance is ok, just needs enforcement.

Homeowners need to adhere to dark sky principles

short term rentals often have excessive lighting and renters who have no idea about light and sound requirements. Some 2nd home owners also have systems that can be turned on and off by phone remotely and can be an annoyance because they don't know how their remote lights effect the neighborhood.

73 Response(s)

OPEN QUESTION

Please note any concerns you wish to be addressed.

any outdoor lighting that does not block to above needs to be corrected so that light does not shine up

Sensitive to cost for compliance. Preference is to maintain current ordinance and incrementally enhance over time.

The rest of town should follow our lead so that everyone can enjoy the nights sky. We trust the trustees will not permit the new chain up by pass lane to have lighting and somehow prevent truckers from using temporary lights.

83 Response(s)

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Do you wish for Blue River to seek a dark sky designation

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			95	62%
No			56	37%
Total Responses			151	100%

8. If you feel there needs to be improvements, what would you like to add?

Possibly sensors/timers during night hours
Suggest this ordinance be voted on by constituents ... these smells of a narrative of someone with no real benefit of the Blue River constituents and is an over reach by the town. As trying to become compliant could be a financial hardship, I would like to understand what provisions have been thought of regarding this potential.
Use West Cliff's as an example, seems to work for them.
None
Making sure that houses (especially STRs) do not have outside lights on for days at a time. Maybe requiring motion sensor lights, etc. we have an issue with the str behind us leaving there porch lights on for days at a time and they are very bright.
admittedly, i am unaware of the current ordinance. (and the link didn't work). I tried to leave the above question blank because of that but was not given an "unsure" option. Nonetheless, many of the short term rentals in the Lakeshore neighborhood (and a few residents) have decorative lights or extremely bright LED garage lights on all night long. One on Burntwood blasts light into six other homes. Lights permitted four hours past sunset or until 10 pm (which ever come first) would be ideal
New construction or remodel should be considered for lighting concerns. I feel short term rental rules enforcement should
Be a discussed topic at this time not dark sky lightkng concerns.
Love to meet International Designation for Dark Sky Compliance.
I am not sure but many homes leave their lights on all night. I have light sensors for movement. Would these need to be deactivated?
Get rid of year round christmas lights. Shut blinds when lights are on at night
Enforcement is needed. Pursuing the designation would be fantastic.
Outdoor bistro lights / party lights on a timer that come on every single nights get need to be banned. Also, outdoor lighting that is left on all night should be banned.
Security lights motion activated rather than on all night. Red light rather than white?
Perhaps we could have clear rules about outside lights on houses and garages. My neighbors don't want to contribute to light pollution, but they don't know the rules.
Our property is already Dark Sky compliant
Rental folks leave lights on all night
More lighting for security
Make sure those who rent have their renters follow the ordinance.
I don't think it is enforced much.
I think adoption would require some better general adherence to a lighting policy. I don't feel we have a lot of light pollution anywhere in Blue River, but there are random light types, or angle of lights that may not be compliant.
N/A
Exterior lights all down lighting and on timers. NO bistro lighting all night long. By joining the International Dark Sky association to get guidance and help to improve our understanding of how it will benefit our town and community.
making sure renters are aware of local dark sky rules
I believe that there are more important things than dark designation that our government should focus on. Like fire mitigation, traffic on Hwy 9, short term rentals, etc.

"Improvement" may not entail what the night sky program stipulates, so I am unsure of whether we can get to that. While we love the stars and our exterior home is compliant, we see several problems. #1 Renters (making up a large number in our community) do not understand the stipulations or consistently follow them. #2 While all homes in our HOA are now compliant with exterior lighting, there are blue-white lights shining inside homes that provide significant light pollution.

First thing is to start enforcing existing ordinances, such as regulating the proliferation of sheds.

Second thing is to consider is you will apply the lighting ordinance on the way-bright street lights, or if those will be exempted.

I am mixed on whether we need an improved ordinance. Part of what we all enjoy in Blue River is the removal from the bustling town of breck. We also enjoy wildlife. So it would make sense to have a dark sky complaint community. I just don't really like more regulations. But for the wildlife, I vote yes.

I have a few neighbors who have incurred significant additional costs when replacing lighting to conform with the existing night sky ordinance. While I am very pro-dark skies, I am hesitant to back regulations that drive up the cost of home construction and remodeling. The cost of living in Summit County is already very high and we have lots of zoning codes in place that make new construction unattainable for middle-class people. New regs need to have no- and low-cost options.

Bistro lights, while not much of a problem during the winter season, can & often present a problem during the summer months while people outside into the 9 - 11 o'clock hour.

Outside lighting at STRs is a constant problem being left on 24/7 as is the intense wattage some properties owners choose to use.

We have some neighbors that leave their string lights on all night. My suggestion is a curfew for the string lights to be turned off. Maybe they could be put on a timer?

Better review of specific fixtures. Existing and new.

Homeowners need to adhere to dark sky principles

I would just like to see less out side lights left on. I personally love the idea of Dark sky nights.

Better monitoring and compliance with code.

While certain houses have can or downlighting they are located on the side of mountain above other residences so that lights shine down on housing below

I'd like the town to enforce the code and not allow bistro lighting installed after the natural night sky ordinance was adopted. Bistro lights are not the same as holiday lighting and shouldn't be allowed under the holiday lighting exception. We'd be in favor of the town pursuing international dark sky compliance

Encourage the neighborhood not to keep outdoor lights on all night.

Holiday and Christmas lights that are left on all night and all year long is a huge waste of energy, creates pollution and significantly increases confusion/dis-ease for wildlife. Require exterior Christmas/Holiday lights on a timer to turn on around twilight and off by 10 PM, starting in November and turning off permanently by the Western Stock show in January. Provide grant funding for timers as well as exterior light fixtures to remove financial barriers for all.

short term rentals often have excessive lighting and renters who have no idea about light and sound requirements. Some 2nd home owners also have systems that can be turned on and off by phone remotely and can be an annoyance because they don't know how their remote lights effect the neighborhood.

Ensuring all houses are dark sky compliant.

Main problem in our area is some porchlights are very bright and are often left on continuously. Enforcing current ordinances is required.

More enforcement with STRs and push to be dark sky designated

Enforce ordinance with renters and rental owners.

Ebforsement
Home owners need to comply.
The short term rentals leave very bright flood light day and night.
0095 Calle de Plata
Public lighting needs to be improved. Street lights are blindingly bright and technology exists to modify them. The street light at Hwy 9 and Spruce Creek Rd. is not compliant and is bright whenever it's dark.. There are a number of rental properties that will ignore any ordinance.
There are bigger fish to fry than lighting
Enforcement of homes who leave lights on outside.
Timber Creek Estates subdivision of Blue River is 95% compliant due to our HOA enforcement measures for external lighting taken in 2021-2022. As President of the HOA I'm proud of this accomplishment and the board members dedication to interface with homeowners, some of whom have been very resistant. The board voted not to move forward with further certification per IDS requirements at this time.
I would love to talk about paving our roads
Currently have many neighbors (most who are short-term renters who have outside lights that aren't Night Sky compliant and they leave these on all night. Need much better communication and enforcement if this is going to take hold.
I don't believe the designation is worth the administrative burden it requires.
I would like to prevent future issues. Currently seems fine.
I do not support further changes
Short term rental properties need to have downlighting. Period. End of story. The first thing renters do is turn on every single light and leave them on all night and all day.
Let's not be histrionic, and stating that there are supposed health benefits for humans in the environment and doing this. The case for enjoying beautiful night skies free of light pollution Israel.
Given our sparse population, it doesn't help to overstate a supposed health benefit not supported by science. If it is supposedly supported by science, then do provide references to the literature. Yes, exterior lighting, can disrupt, circadian rhythms. It is awfully dark in Blue River.
Let's make this happen!! How can I help???
You want to have this ordinance in place in 10 years for light pollution?? Yet, you can't even maintain our constant dusty roads, potholes, washboards and speeding in the neighborhoods which all of those are health hazards and environmental hazards.
All exterior lighting should be on motion sensors with a maximum on time of ten minutes.
Limit exterior lighting overnight except for safety purposes.
I will read it first! My guess is that the ordinance is ok, just needs enforcement.
I would like to see a more aggressive approach to residential conversion to dark sky compliance. Possibly physical outreach/contact with the community
No
Nothing.
The proposed CDOT charged up station on Hwy 9 sure doesn't help this cause.
Les lighting on homes. Confined lighting. Only moderate light pointing down at entrances. a limit on number of lights regardless of home size.
We face Hwy 9 and there are houses across from us that have blasting lights. We have spoken to them but didn't receive a positive outcome. They are part timers and need to be educated and required to follow our community rules.

Keep bistro lights to a minimum and make sure the community knows we're trying to keep it dark, especially for the short rental.

None

addressing light pollution and trespass encouraging lighting that does not encroach into roadway

It is not the endorsement of new builds but the old properties that do not conform to Dark Sky

There are too many homes that have lights on way too late. They also have too many lights.

9. Please note any concerns you wish to be addressed.

Neighbors who leave LED lights on all night and street lights w/o timers
I would like to understand what is the benefit to the town or citizens of enacting this code?
Number of outside lights permitted could be based on square footage of home. Concern for safety and security of homes.
I'm not sure this can be fixed, but we live off the highway and have a very, very bright streetlight next to our house. It lights up our bedroom and yard at night, and definitely prevents us from seeing the sky from our deck (which is something I miss from my days living up on Baldy). I assume it's a cdot light but would love if the streetlights could be somehow less impactful to homeowners. All for dark skies!
Unnecessary (not safety related) lights left on all or most of the night.
Don't ask residents to be code enforcers through a complaint process. if you are going to do this, have town supplied code enforcement. I already know short term rental issues are under reported because it relies on resident complaints. No one asked residents to be a core part of enforcement and Dark Sky should not be yet another resident enforced regulation.
New construction or remodel should be considered for lighting concerns. I feel short term rental rules enforcement should
Be a discussed topic at this time not dark sky lightkng concerns
We are in bear and moose country. Safety is a concern.
The night sky is being violated by Breckenridge. Look up some night and see where it is coming from
There are still homes that are brightly lit at night that should not be. It's better for the environment and to create a differentiated value proposition for ToBR to be Dark Sky recognized. Thank you.
There is no compliance really so why bother? Neighbors have shades open and lights on as well as year round christmas lights and outdoor theatre football parties
My neighbor's light is awful. It's annoying they are creating so much light pollution and they're not even here anyway.
Same as above.
Short term rentals be advised of policies.
Really seems like only a couple of people are trying to force dark skies on everyone else. Truthfully what percentage of Blue River residents really care?
Rentals that leave bright porch lights on for days on end
Street lights on sensors
I don't believe that trying to designate a location like Blue River, in such close proximity to the touristy town of Breckenridge, is a great move. Prairie towns are able to do this much easier than a tourist center. Personally, I love the dark sky concept, but don't see it as being feasible here.

There is no way this can be enforced and there is no point in having an ordinance that can't be enforced.

Light pollution around me varies from night to night. Some nights we are compliant, and sometimes bright spotlights are shining through the night.

One reason may be short-term renters who decide to leave outside lights on all night. So maybe we could put notices in homes licensed for STR, setting forth the rules to prevent light pollution. (As we do with the Moose warnings.)

The light on the north end of my building is a total eyesore for the town of Blue River. It is by far the brightest light in all of Blue River.

What good is it with Breck lit like a Christmas tree

With the town being in a narrow valley, I feel like the sky view is limited.

Safety of residents

Better street. Our neighborhood streets are unacceptable. Focus needs to be on basic needs.

What about automatic motion activated light sources? Would not like the ability use these.

Why in the world would you encumber the Town of Blue River with all this work to set this up (and the cost)? Not to mention the required on-going government reports, the oversight, the enforcement and fines. HUGE. There are other more important things like speeding and dust and rough roads that truly effect the lives of our residents where money could be spent.

Thank you for your work making this a great community!

Carol Rockne

Most exterior lights in my neighborhood are not code compliant.

I work in marketing and see the benefits of dark sky designation both environmentally, and from a tourism and homeowner perspective and think this might be great general benefit of Blue River.

I do not wish to see any changes to the lighting ordinance in Blue River.

enforcement of existing ordinances in place would be a good start. We often have rental homes near us that have outdoor lighting that is left on for weeks and weeks.

The towns lighting of entrances to streets so it doesn't look like an industrial park.

This is a great opportunity for our small town to step up and be a leader in summit county with this important initiative.

I believe that we will all find that there is nothing to be afraid of in the dark.

We as a community need to be a leader with this proposed program.

keep the CDOT truck chain down/up out of Blue River!

The lighting on highway 9 at the future truck tire chain station.

There are renters & owners who do not feel safe at night without some visibility around their homes. Secondly, I don't know how you tell homeowners to change large interior light fixtures (though dimmers would sure be appreciated) ... and although we both dim our lights and pull our shades, we have some high windows without shades.
Just how invasive can regulations be within one's home? We are supportive & put our hot tub where we can appreciate the stars, but skeptical re: compliance.

Enforce existing ordinances before putting time into some lighting designation.

I am mixed on whether we need an improved ordinance. Part of what we all enjoy in Blue River is the removal from the bustling town of Breck. We also enjoy wildlife. So it would make sense to have a dark sky compliant community. I'm not too fond of more regulations in general. But for the wildlife, I vote yes.

To reiterate, I don't support any new regs that drive up the cost of home construction and ownership. Our building code is already swollen with things like mandatory solar hookups that add 5-digit numbers to the cost of home construction. Dark skies is a great initiative but it's a "nice to have" and shouldn't be pursued if we can't allow for no-cost compliance in any new regulations. Affordable housing > dark skies.

I believe, with the number of STR & second home owners, it would be very difficult to enforce. I would rather have our police force managing crime and speeding, not looking for homes that are not compliant.

The trespassing of light pollution onto adjacent & nearby properties.

Evaluate if existing properties are following the current lighting code as a starting point.

Love the idea of being a Dark Sky Community. Our area is so beautiful. At night just heading up to the pass or pre dawn hikes in the mountains you can see the potential. As long as basic safety and access is maintained without adding significant financial or other burdens to residents. Personally I think this would be a win.

No concerns but would like to see less outside lights left on.

Bistro Lighting and lights on the exterior without timer or motion sensor control.

I do not see how this can/will be enforced, particularly when it comes to short term rentals. When people can build and remodel without permits, as regularly happens in my neighborhood, I see nothing changing. I wholeheartedly support this initiative, but nobody is actually going to do it.

There are so many homes; full-time residence, second homeowners, businesses, long-term and short-term rentals in the neighborhood that have glaring lights that stay on all night long. Cultivating supportive measures and codes that remove financial barriers for folks of modest means as well as compliance from renters second homeowners and corporations/LLC's where there is no ownership and/or greater affluence so a \$200 ticket is the cost of doing business will be key.

Large amounts of indoor lighting escaping to the outdoors

See previous comment.

Owner of STR's don't know/care about ordinance.

Living in an isolated area with lots of wild animals and small dogs, lights on the perimeter of a home help keep the not so friendly animals a bit further away or at least let us walk outside with the dogs without startling them.

See above.

Sensitive to cost for compliance. Preference is to maintain current ordinance and incrementally enhance over time.

Getting STRs and their owners to participate in the program.

This is a wonderful initiative

I'd like to see a public area in Blue River for dark field celestial observation. There are too many trees on my property and local street lights to allow this. Also, there is a lot of light pollution from Breck.

We have enough govt. intrusion in our lives. Let people decide what they want to do with their property.

I am good with the dark skies; however the last thing we need is more rules and codes to follow. If I wanted that, I'd move to California.

The rest of town should follow our lead so that everyone can enjoy the nights sky. We trust the trustees will not permit the new chain up by pass lane to have lighting and somehow prevent truckers from using temporary lights.

Night light pollution from STR's.

how would we enforce the restrictions?

I think it's great to promote dark sky, but I do not want it codified. It's a pain to enforce as there is lots of latitude for interpretation I know this from my HOAs enforcement. It will be expensive for residents and the town to enforce without it being arbitrary.

Our neighborhood, Timber Creek Estates, is in the process of making all homes Dark Sky compliant, and I don't know if that HOA mandate has been met. We do think that it's a great idea, and made adjustments in our outside lighting last year. I do believe that annual inspections are a bit much, and worry that this could become a regular costly venture if codes evolve and become more stringent. How often do people change their exterior lighting in existing homes?

We are so lucky to be one of the few areas in Summit County where you can actually still see the stars at night. It is a treasure.

Short term rental properties need to have downlighting. Period. End of story. The first thing renters do is turn on every single light and leave them on all night and all day.

<p>They should be entirely voluntary. Let's be careful not to become like a homeowners association. That's so many of us want to avoid because others are trying to impose their choices on us through a government entity.</p>
<p>It is good to enjoy the beautiful night sky. Let's not be coercive and use government to try to force this upon everybody. Just as we offer grants for wildfire medication, if we're really serious about this, let's offer grants for the purchase of dark sky compliant lighting.</p>
<p>Neighbors w spots on all the time especially the STR next door !</p>
<p>At your town meetings there is always the topic of money and how you can't afford paving, signs, grading, etc... Yet, you are wanting to implement an ordinance for light pollution? Light pollution is NOT an issue in Blue River. Dusty roads, ungraded pot hole infested roads and speeding are MAJOR issues in Blue River. Those are the health issues that continue to be tabled and in no way will I agree to a new ordinance for something that is not a problem. We don't live in downtown Denver!! /</p>
<p>My neighborhood has dark sky covenants and it is a real pain. Things like Christmas lights are against the rules. I agree with many of the tenants of the dark sky initiative and would voluntarily follow most of the guidelines (regardless that I am forced to by my HOA); however, I am strongly against adding new rules.</p>
<p>The ordinance is clear, we just need people to comply. How to enforce that is a question mark to me, but some neighbors have lights that are obviously not compliant. Good luck with this project.</p>
<p>Dusk to Dawn bright lights left on through the night.</p>
<p>any outdoor lighting that does not block to above needs to be corrected so that light does not shine up</p>
<p>The current ordinance really only addresses upward light from fixtures, but light still reflects off of surfaces below. The ordinance has no specific requirements for lumen levels, or color levels. It doesn't address lighting from within a building, that spills into adjacent properties. There needs to be balance between security and safety. Outdoor pathways and especially stair cases should have minimum lumen levels. Can someone be liable for inadequate lighting.</p>
<p>The light at the north end of the building I live in is an eyesore for the whole town of blue river.</p>
<p>None</p>

1) generous and strong outdoor lighting is PROVEN crime, mostly burglary deterrent ! Crime is on the rise.
2) Moose is roaming our street at late evenings, in dark. Sudden encounter of moose due to darkness can result into serious injuries of loss of life !!!!
3)Town of Blue River already is dark sky town, since one can see sky full of stars and Milky Way on any cloudless night
Trees are the objects preventing one in seeing more of the dark sky. Let's keep the trees.

These ordinances will become cumbersome and overbearing. Don't do it

I don't care what kind of lights anyone has but they need to know to turn them off at night

Since our little neighborhood has become dark sky and the knowledge that I have because I was one of a few that were doing the enforcement this will be impossible to achieve. I would be glad to chat. Stephen Schiell. 970-275-0273.

We have berars, moose, and other critters regularly visit our property. For safety of our family, kids, and grandkids, we do not wish to see lighting eliminated for safety reasons.

Blue River Condos has the brightest light in town. It is the only outdoor lighting I am concerned about.

The huge environmental impact (noise and light) the proposed chain up station will deter from achieving dark sky designation.

Please continue to REDUCE existing lighting in TBR

Eduction and enforcement are needed. Especially for STR and part trine residents

Outside life lights should be kept at a certain wattage

Do not do this. It will become a burden to the community.

bright garage/home lighting makes it difficult to see further along roadway and creates safety hazards.

Michelle Eddy

From: Jan Karasek <jankarasekmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 8:16 AM
To: Michelle Eddy
Subject: Town of Blue River as International Dark Sky Community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Michelle,

this e mail is from Jan Karasek, property owner at 0169 Starlit Lane, Blue River.

Here are few concerns I have with regard to the proposal to have our town designated as a Dark Sky Community.

1. Town of Blue River ALREADY IS a dark sky community. The amount of public light over the town's sky is so microscopic, there is practically No "light pollution" as compared to other places. As a proof, one can walk out at dark and providing there is a cloudless night, one can see the starry sky as well as Milky Way etc.
2. Sufficien and perhaps generous light on the streets and around the residential properties is a PROVEN factor in reducing property crime. Please see the enclosed links from reputable sources. US Department of Justice and Universities of Chicago and Arizona . More of the same can easily be locatd on the web, should one google the topic
3. Our streets in the town are at night what one can easily and without any exaggeration call "pitch dark " . This is a big problem since moose is roaming on our streets at dark, in late evenings. Lack or proper lighting may result into a sudden encounter on a moose. And as we all know, getting into the moose's proximity suddenly is nearly guaranteed to result iinto an attack by the animal. This can result into seirious bodily injuries as well into **possible death**.
4. While the Dark Sky designation is promoted as a way to be able to see the sky and enjoy long hours by one's telescope, I am convinced that the true nature of this initiative is an attempt to decrease energy consumption. Telescoping the night sky is not really a massively popluar hobby.

As far as that is concerned, we know that the nightly electrical energy price is DECREASED, compared to the daytime use. Recent letter from Xcel Energy in Colorado clearly states that the price of the electrical energy is going down down by 7 PM. (It is because nighttime electrical energy is abundant, since the turbines that produce is can not slow down at night. That is why one should charge the Tesla at night !!! . No I do not have one)

If the energy usage is a concern, the town should save the money on any committees walking around at night an studying individual homes, and should instead spend the money on purchasing LED lightbulbs and offer those to the homeowners. Replacing a 100 WATTS outdoor light bulb with the one offering the same luminance and using only 9 Watts, is guaranteed to reduce the town's use of the electric grid.

Enclosed are few links to the topic, sould you be interested to see the details.

In summary, we can see the sky full of stars every single cloudless night in Blue River. We need to see the roaming moose and hopefully deter crime and damage to our properties.

Thank you for reading and thank you for considering.

With due respect

Jan Karasek.

P.S. A brief e mail confirming that you have received and read my mail would be TRULY GREAT.

Public lighting **REDUCED CRIME** in **Chicago** by **36 %** here is the link <https://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/projects/crime-lights-study>

This study is by **US Department of Justice** link <https://cops.usdoj.gov/ric/Publications/cops-p156-pub.pdf>

Arizona State University study : Increased public lighting decreases crime link <https://popcenter.asu.edu/content/improving-street-lighting-reduce-crime-residential-areas-page-2>

US Department of Justice, Justice Programs Crime reduced by increased lighting link <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/improving-street-lighting-reduce-crime-residential-areas>



Town of Blue River

Blue River Incentive Programs

Program Budget: \$20,000

Program Suggestions:

- Bear Resistant Cans
- Wildfire Defensible Space
- Dark Sky Lighting

Program Information

- Bear Resistant Cans
 - Program: Provide \$50 incentive rebate for anyone purchasing a bear resistant can.
 - Application is on the website and information in all news letters.
 - Suggested Budget: \$1,000 to provide 20 grants per year.
- Wildfire Defensible Space
 - Program suggestions:
 - Defensible building materials “hardening” of the home.
 - Drip line around the entire structure
 - Short grass within 30’
 - Minimum of 6” of noncombustible siding where the home hits the ground or any other horizontal surface like decks or walkways
 - Minimum storage under decks
 - Fire wise landscaping.
 - Zone 1 and/or 2 defensible space.
 - Suggested Budget: \$12,000
- Dark Sky Lighting
 - Program suggestions:
 - Free light bulb exchange
 - Free timers or reimbursement incentives up to “\$X”
 - Free light shield or reimbursement incentives
 - Suggested Budget: \$6,0000

P.O. Box 1784, Breckenridge, CO 80424
970-547-0545, <https://townofblueriver.colorado.gov>

Blue River Calendar of Events

2023

Town Clean Up Day

May 20th

Lessons in the Park

Wildfire Defensible Space & Weed Mitigation

June 29th

Night Under the Stars

August 13th

Weed & Seed Program

July 1st-September 30th

Countywide Weed Fest

July 8th

Town Founders Day

TBD

Trunk or Treat


October 31st

Troop 187

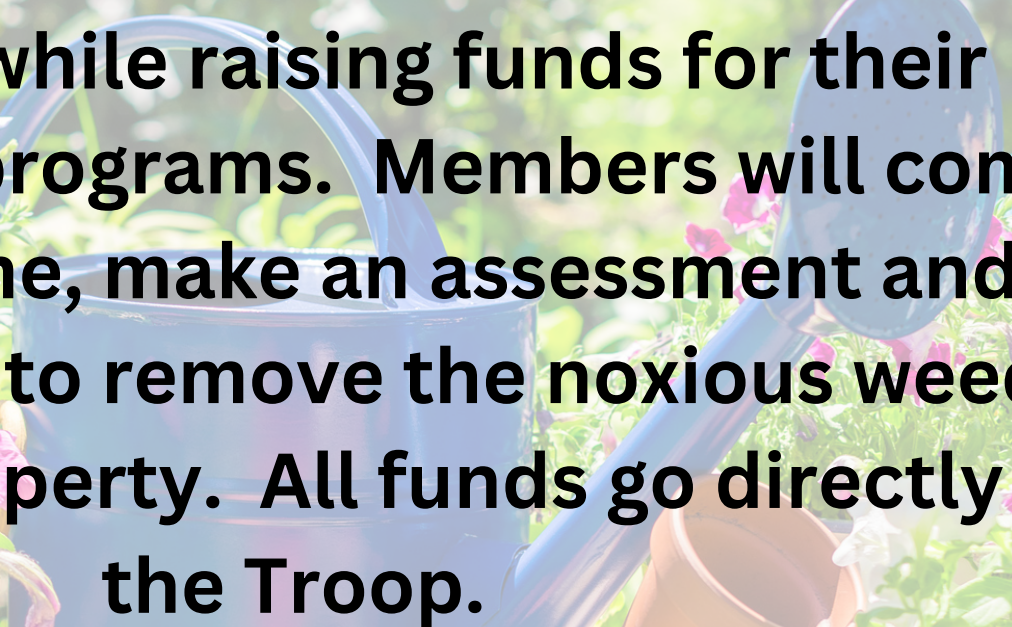
Section III, ItemD.



Noxious Weed Program



Members of Troop 187 want to do their part to reduce the noxious weeds in our community while raising funds for their educational programs. Members will come to your home, make an assessment and provide a bid to remove the noxious weeds from your property. All funds go directly to the Troop.



**LET'S WORK TOWARDS A NOXIOUS
WEED FREE COMMUNITY**

Contact Troop 187

<https://www.facebook.com/BSATroop187Breckenridge>
or I can be the point of contact (970) 389-4988.

Blue River Weed & Seed Program



Learn more about identifying and
removing noxious weeds
In our community!

Please dispose of your UNBAGGED weeds in the yellow dumpster and help yourself to some wildflower seeds. Dump your weeds out of the bags and take your bags with you!

Please no trash or bagged weeds in the dumpster.

