

APPROVED

**City of Stanley
Dark Sky Reserve
December 8, 2016**

IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE CITY:

Council President Steve Botti, Councilmember Laurii Gadwa, and Councilmember Lem Sentz, all answered to roll call. Herb Mumford Mayor and Councilmember Mark Wilson are not present.

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Karen Keiski, Ellen Roche Libertine, David Keiski, Maryellen Easom, Alan Easom, Char Roth, Tom Pomproy, Tyler Thayn, Gary O'Malley, Amy Hill, Paul Hill, Jim Wetzal, CJ Sherlock, Jeff Welker, Gary Gadwa, Kriss Wagner, Dan Wagner, Steve Smith, Terry Clark, Barbara Garcia, Matt Benjamin.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting is called to order by Steve Botti at 4:00 p.m.

Matt Benjamin/Astronomer:

Matt Benjamin Astronomer from University of Colorado; Benjamin has done a lot of work with Dark Sky Preservation: He explains this is the best astronomical event in 40 years; the Great American Eclipse will start in the early afternoon at approximately 11:28 a.m. Being able to see the night sky is a luxury, this is a resource that is going away, 80% of Americans cannot see the Milky Way, because of human development, urbanization, buildings, house lights and street lights. Benjamin gave descriptions of the intensity of light pollution across the United States. Light pollution is really just outdoor lighting. Once a City has light pollution it is hard or almost impossible to reverse. Central Idaho is the largest contiguous area of Dark Sky in the lower 48. It would be nice if central Idaho can preserve the Dark Sky for our children, grandchildren and visitors that live in light polluted areas.

Steve Botti/Council President:

All over the world there are International Dark Sky Reserves. This would be the first Dark Sky Reserve in the United States. Dark Sky parks and reserves are becoming very popular and we would like to be part of a program to protect this diminishing resource.

What is a reserve: A reserve possesses an exceptional quality of starry nights, nocturnal environment, has public benefit and is either on public land or private land or both. A reserve will have a core area where the sky is the darkest. For us this would be most of the NRA and the four wilderness areas. The peripheral area (which supports Dark Sky preservation in the core) for us is: Ketchum, Sun Valley and parts of Blaine County and the south. To form a reserve, you must have a partnership of multiple land managers. Currently the land managers for us consist of: Stanley, Ketchum, Sun Valley, Custer County, Blaine County and the Forest Service.

Why do we want to create this reserve: Preserves and enhances the nighttime experience and improves the quality of life. We are fortunate we have this magnificent quality of Dark Sky in our area and it would be nice to preserve what we have left. The economic benefits of a Dark Sky reserve would be: switching over to energy efficient lights (which would include shielding); tourism revenue - a lot of these Dark Sky places have become very popular as tourism destinations; support healthy nocturnal ecosystem and support wildlife.

ORIGINAL IN RED

Enhance local educational and scientific opportunities. Promote Dark Sky as a community asset as part of our national heritage.

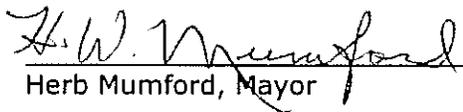
How do we create a reserve: Exceptional night time darkness is needed, once the area is nominated and presented to the International Dark-Sky Association (which is a nonprofit organization based out of Arizona). Then an outdoor lighting management plan is created, which tells them what the partnership proposes to do to preserve the Dark Sky they currently have. The proposal for our area would consist of 906,000 acres.

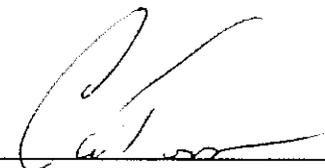
How to keep the night sky dark: When you have sky glow (lights pointing up) you need to shield these lights to point downward instead of upward and eliminate unnecessary outdoor lighting and light trespass, at this time you would also convert to energy efficient lighting.

The rest of the meeting consisted of Q and A.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council President Botti adjourns the meeting at 5:34 p.m.


Herb Mumford, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Cari Tassano, City Clerk

