

GEM Committee Minutes – February 6, 2013

1. Attendance: Cliff Peterson, Frank Cumberland, Janet Muir, Eric Householder, Jennifer Graham, Richard Webb, Steve Clarke. Excused: Paul Riley, Kimbal Wheatley, and Fred Smullin.
Cliff Peterson was welcomed on the occasion of his first meeting.
2. Announcements:
 - a. General Plan Study – Steve reported that the “node” (or Village) study has not progressed since November due to other commitments of the Planning Staff.
 - b. The GEM meeting with the County Commissioners will be 2/25, 9:00 Matt Bell, 9:30 Kerry Gibson, 10:00 Jan Zogmaister in the Commissioners offices at the Weber Center.
 - c. The next Planning Commission meeting will be 2/26 at 5 pm.
3. Starry Nights Initiative Work Session
 - a. **Preparing for the meeting with the Commissioners** – The agenda will be 1) Reinforcement of the node study priority, 2) Call for action on Recreation Planning, and 3) The Starry Night Initiative. All GEM members are invited to attend these meetings, just let Steve know so the right size room can be arranged. The presentation will be developed in a work session to be announced.
 - b. Janet Muir led the discussion of our Dark Skies (now Starry Nights) effort:
 - i. **“Ahead of time in Utah/Behind others”** in development of ordinances – Janet felt we could benefit from the work of others who are ahead of us and also be a leader in Utah.
 - ii. **Starry Nights rebranding** – The Committee agreed with a re-branding of the work to be called Starry Nights instead of Dark Skies. There is considerable negative material which refers to “Dark Skies” in web searches and the group felt Starry Nights was a much better title.
 - iii. **The Star Party** – A date of May 10 was selected. Cliff Peterson shared several experiences and encouragement relative to the Star Party. We are optimistic we can reach the elementary and middle school, perhaps even the high school, to engage students and bring many more families to the event. Steve will pass along the contacts for teachers at the schools. The proposed poster was applauded by the group but printing arrangements were not made.
 - iv. **OVN and Standard Examiner articles** – 12 articles over the next 12 to 18 months are planned. The first article draft was reviewed and approved by the group. We thank Janet, Frank and Fred for writing it.

- v. **Visit from Scott Kardel** – Janet is discussing a visit with Scott, attempting to identify every opportunity for leverage. We decided it is premature to set a date at this point. Scott would like to see a new Wasatch Front chapter started.

 - c. **White Paper Review** – Frank led us in a review of the White Paper. He began by recognizing Janet’s leadership and effort. We agreed to eliminate the specific sign examples so as not to offend people and otherwise applauded the work as outstanding. The White Paper will be used in meetings with the Commissioners and others. All members should print a copy when it is final and use it with friends and other groups.

 - d. **Ketchum as a reference** – Richard Webb suggested Ketchum, Idaho might be a good reference. While we were talking about it Janet looked at their ordinance and reported that it looked outstanding. She plans to incorporate it as a reference in our Starry Nights work.

 - e. **Snowberry Inn** – The group agrees that this could be a “Quick Win” which is very visible in the Valley. The plan is to try connecting with an architect and electrician who subscribe to the Starry Nights Initiative, develop a plan for improving the lighting of the sign, and then invite a “redo” with funding by the group if necessary. The before and after would then be used in articles as a reference. We agreed the Commissioners and OVBA should be briefed before Snowberry Inn is engaged.

 - f. **Starry Night supporters** – We agreed to approach contractors, architects, and sign companies as Starry Night supporters, identifying and promoting those who are able and willing.
4. The **next meeting will be March 6th**, at 5 pm, in the Huntsville Library.