

Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS)

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 6, 2023

7:00 to 8:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Val Szwarc- co-secretary.

Note: **BCAS Business Topics:** No Business was covered at this meeting.

The venue was a hybrid format with both online Zoom and in-person. Bryan Cashion hosted the meeting with a total of 31 attendees, including 19 logons (two of which were pairs) and 10 persons at the Centennial conference room, in Montrose, Colorado.

Minutes Summary:

President Bryan Cashion opened the meeting welcoming members and guests. The program topic was an update of Dark Sky activities in Colorado presented by Aaron Watson, IDA Colorado Chair.

Program Presentation and Summary:

Some of the interesting Astronomical events discussed are listed below:

- The Colorado Chapter of IDA is in the process of rebranding to be called DarkSky Colorado.
- The International Organization is in the process of rebranding as well to be called DarkSky International. The transition timing is expected later this year.
- The parent strategy is evolving from the focus on Tourism to Health considerations and Environmental Justice, and from Protect to Restore.
- The Colorado Chapter has applied for non-profit 501c3 status.
- The Colorado Dark Sky Places mentor program kicked off in January 2023 with four site locations selected by the State of Colorado including Ridgway State Park, the Town of Durango, San Luis Valley Dark Sky reserve (proposed), and Browns Canyon National Monument.
- Funding for the Program is expected to continue next year.
- Currently Colorado has 18 Places in the pipeline with IDA.
- The Colorado Chapter have a number of initiatives in the works including “Protect the Night – a Dark Sky tool Kit” and a policy of working with the governor’s office to proclaim June Dark Sky month in Colorado.

Bryan wrapped up the meeting, thanked all that attended, and he adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 pm.