

Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS)

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 24, 2021

7:00 to 8:18 p.m.

Bryan and Sara were located in the City of Montrose Centennial Room connecting to the City internet and projector. (cabinet with electronic access was unlocked)
This was a “**Hybrid**” one-person audience meeting done as a test to see if an in-person meeting could be conducted with the presentation also being on-line via Zoom.

Prepared by Sara Ungrodt- co-Secretary

Note: **BCAS Business Topics:** Business was not covered in this video conference.

22 individuals attended online via 18 connections.

Minutes Summary:

President Bryan Cashion opened the meeting from the Centennial room. He explained what we trying as far as a “hybrid” meeting. BCAS has had very good participation from members and guests that live far away. BCAS wants to include as many people as possible. Don’t know yet if it will be safe to gather in person but would like to be prepared.

Current Astronomy News:

Art- NASAs Hubble telescope is in “Safe” mode. Had problem with computer hardware that is 11 years old. They have a backup computer that may be used.

Val- Plan C- they want to understand what’s going on before backup is used.

Program Presentation and Summary of Key Points:

Featured Program: Hannah Ashley from the NPS- her bio.

New National Park International Dark Sky Sites, Their Significance for the Park Service and Beyond

How to get certified-criteria ex. Milky Way readily visible, light domes dim, minimum dark sky meter reading 21.2 etc.

(Bryan started recording at 7:17)

She talked about partners, public education and on-going work.

Why is this important?

She asked attendees about their 1st moments experiencing/remembering the night sky.

She noted that everyone doesn’t have the same opportunity- so we create bridges of connection.

80% of the world’s population live in light polluted skies. 1/3 can’t see the Milky Way.

4 National Parks will be certified in 2021.

She presented info about with sky dome elevation depictions (analysis done by NPS)

Pipe Spring National Monument- 40-acre Garden within Kaibab Reservation/Paiute.

Hannah noted internship programs solved the gas station pollution problem

Zion NP- Recent IDA certification. 4.4 million visitors in 2019. Many species that live there are nocturnal. There are lots of light threats nearby. Light dome charts depicting this from nearby towns Fitzgerald, Pipkin etc.

Mesa Verde- New. Lots of variety of programs for various Dark Sky parks. Example: Mesa Verde places lights/lanterns inside the ruins in the winter months to show what the Ancients may have displayed

Questions/Comments:

Governor Polis has designated June as Dark Sky Month.

Aaron Watson working on Town of Paonia Dark Sky designation.

Art- Lots of contrast between National Parks

Curecanti on its way to Dark Sky application- Alice de Anguera of the Park Service, noted the applications are a lot of work.

Hannah's Mom Anselma asked about the value of Dark Skies.

Val- noted Top of the Pines- 175-acre site outside of Ridgway will be submitting IDA application soon.

August 9-12 - a Dark Sky Program is planned at Top of the Pines featuring Workshops, and Perseid Meteor Watch/Count. Final details expected in July.

Bryan wrapped up the meeting.

Next meeting is Thursday July 22- online.

Speaker to be determined.

Meeting ended 8:18 p.m.