



Date: October 23rd, 2023

To: Mayor Kudron and the Trustees

From: Kim White, Community Development Director

RE: Request to Permit the Town Staff to Apply for Dark Sky Certification Mentorship Program

Purpose:

To permit Town Staff to pursue an application to request 70 hours of free consulting in order to implement activities that reduce light pollution. To apply for the [mentorship program](#) Town Staff requires letter of support from the Board of Trustees.

Background:

From the OEDIT website: "As a result of HB22-1382, the Colorado Tourism Office and DarkSky Colorado seek to partner with tourism destinations across the state that are interested in advancing strategies that help achieve International Dark Sky Place (IDSP) certification and enhance Colorado's visitor experience.

Participants in the Colorado Dark Sky Certification Mentor program will receive 70 hours of free consulting support from DarkSky Colorado to implement activities that reduce light pollution and protect access to Colorado's incredible night skies. Successful implementation will increase Colorado's competitive edge as a destination and provide a wealth of benefits for Colorado communities."

Staff Comments:

While our current code already discusses the requirement of dark-sky compliant lighting, this program will help the Town Staff better understand how to measure the darkness levels, create a lighting inventory, get public engaged in data collection, with the end goal of International Dark Sky Place certification.

Municipal Code:

12-7-6 Lighting Standards.

Standards for controlling lighting and glare are set forth to reduce annoyance and inconvenience to property owners and traffic hazards to motorists while providing for the protection of a comfortable community environment. These standards are intended to allow reasonable enjoyment of adjacent and nearby property by the owners and the general public while requiring adequate levels of lighting in private and public spaces.

(A) *Lighting Standards for Private and Public Spaces.*

1. Lighting shall be consistent with the 'Dark-Sky Concept' through the utilization of approved night scaping fixtures, which prevent adverse effects of artificial night lighting.

- (a) This shall include components to reduce: sky glow glare, light trespassing and clutter, decreased night visibility, and energy waste.
 2. Lighting shall be down-cast to the fullest extent possible.
 3. Accent Ornamental Lighting shall be permitted and is highly recommended to be utilized.
 4. Seasonal Ornamental Lighting shall be permitted but shall be kept in a properly working order.
 5. Other exterior ornamental lighting shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- (B) *Lighting Guideline for Private and Public Spaces.*
1. Lighting should be non-intrusive to the surrounding properties and general community.
 2. The Town strongly encourages the use of exterior ornamental lighting that is powered by solar energies and utilizes day and night time sensors.
 3. Lighting shall be maintained in a properly working order.

Suggested Action:

1. I move to direct staff to prepare a letter of support for the Dark Sky Certification Mentorship Program from the Board of Trustees to be signed by the Mayor.
2. I move to deny the request to prepare a letter of support for the Dark Sky Certification Mentorship Program