

NOV. 7 '24

Mayor & Council for the Town of JEROME

TOWN of JEROME

P.O. BOX 335

JEROME, AZ 86331

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Regarding the new parking lot lights installed at Town Hall it's important to take into account that we have an astronomical observatory situated due west of us on the Rim. I believe they negotiated with Candace Gallagher when she was Town Manager to get the owners of the Grand Hotel in the old hospital building to turn off most of their lights at 11:00 A.M. to reduce interference with their night-time observations of outer space.

Sedona, Flagstaff and Yavapai County have all adopted dark-sky ordinances. We should seriously consider doing the same. Those ordinances are all available "on-line" so it would be simple to address the major points which include: not allowing any light to spill over property lines, no light sources exceeding 60 watts to shine upwards, a specific number of lumens allowed per property and the selection of outside fixtures which are shielded to prevent horizontal light exposure.

This is an important issue, so I hope you'll take time to consider it carefully.

Another item concerning the parking lot is the

change in water retention caused by paving it. The new pavement is very useful especially as regards water infiltrating behind the tall stone walls on the north end. Some time ago a 30 year old engineer-type recommended that the pedestrian access from School Street to the School House be fenced off in case the wall were ever to collapse. The new parking lot pavement greatly reduces the chances of that ever happening. It would be historically correct and much more convenient if the chain-link fence were to be removed and access restored. It would be much more attractive as well. (That same engineer recommended that the concrete walls of the old laundry building be razed since it could be a public hazard. The Design Review Board denied Phil Tovey's request to remove that structure as it constituted an important part of the historic fabric of Jelleville. It's too bad no one with any longevity in Town was consulted if not the DRB itself.)

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Ken H. Christensen

Architect, A.L.A. Emeritus

NCAARB

Former CHAIR DRB

Former CHAIR Planning & Zoning Commission