

Town Manager Report

9/2/26

Community Junk Cleanup 8/29/26-8/30/26

Big thank you to all our volunteers who helped us this summer:

William Merfeld with Public Works.

Mike Kuellenberg, Adrian Archuleta, and Jordan Link with LC Services and big thank you to Mike's friend, Brian McGhee who volunteered while on his weekend vacation!)

Nathan Wuest – Town Trustee

Landon Whinnery (Town Trustee) and Jonathan Wenninger with Hardrock Dirt Works

Jodi Linsey – Town Trustee

Kristine Borchers – County Commissioner

Greg Levine – County Commissioner

Brook Jones for providing lunch for all volunteers twice– Silverthread Public Health

Dusty Merch with CDOT

Gabe McNeese – County & Town Building Official

Dark Sky Community Designation Requirements

See Darksy Community Guidelines for full information.

Summary of Minimum Requirements:

1. Lighting public policy that is legally binding (Ordinance)
 - a. Amortization period, all publicly and privately owned lighting brought into compliance within 10 years.
 - b. Town owned lighting conforming to lighting policy within 5 years.
2. Municipal support of dark skies as demonstrated by town publications, flyers, public services announcement, funding of lighting upgrades, etc.
3. Broad support from wide range of community organizations (LETTERS OF SUPPORT)
4. Community commitment to dark sky education, at least one of the following – two awareness events per year, inclusion of darksky awareness in community information documents for residents 7 visitors, or darksky education in community school.
5. Success in light pollution control as demonstrated by new construction/renovation activity. (EXAMPLE: STREET LIGHT RETROFIT WE DID)
6. Sky brightness measurement program.
7. Once established, community must erect and maintain appropriate signage.

Dark Sky application process, application package requirements.

1. Must be nominated by a Darksky qualified nominator along with a letter of support from local government in order to be able to apply for designation.
2. Map of community.
3. Copy of community lighting policy meeting the minimum requirements
4. Documentation of examples of community commitment and construction or renovation projects demonstrating effective application of the lighting policy.
5. Proposed alternative wording for the IDSC (example: dark sky village, Starry Sky City, Alfred Packers Starry Sky Feast)

Application submission deadlines: January, March, May, July, September, November.

IDSC designation is not awarded in perpetuity. It is subject to regular review and possible revocation if minimum program requirements are not maintained.

Required annual report submitted by October 1st. Report includes dates and brief descriptions of interpretive events, lighting projects, outreach efforts, and samples of printed materials and press articles if available.

I am in the process of scheduling an appointment with a DarkSky representative to ask some questions including if this can be done by resolution or not and will update the board after I speak with them.

Ball Flats Stormwater

I spoke with Grahm Breeden regarding potential future planning for stormwater improvements. I walked the perimeter of his property with him and showed him areas where large amounts of debris and water came down. He also said in the 20 years they have had the property water and debris never come down like that before. He said they would be willing to work with the County and Town on possible stormwater improvements on at least the edges of their property if it does not redirect water or debris to their house and it does not create a hazard to the properties downstream. We will include them and the other property owners in that area in future discussions, especially when and if we start work on designing and engineering a comprehensive plan. According to Colorado State Law, counties are responsible for flood control. The County plans on reviewing their code and we will start having discussions about it probably sometime in October/November.