

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Board

5 September 2014

Ogden Dunes Firehouse

The Environmental Board met on 5 September 2014 at 4:30 pm at the Firehouse in a special meeting. Ogden Dunes attendees were Sue MiHalo, Jim Biancotti, John Morris, Bob Cattani, Paul Panther, and Tom Clouser.

This special meeting was held to discuss the Dark Skies Initiative with Rosemary and Alan Bell of Beverly Shores. The Bells spearheaded an effort in their town to reduce unnecessary lighting, direct that lighting to make it more effective, and in the process, restore a more natural night sky. The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) oversees initiatives, and Beverly Shores became the seventh community world-wide to achieve the designation.

The Bells presented a powerpoint to show the disadvantages of most current lighting, and how it is improved by directing the light downward rather than broadcasting it in all directions. They also gave a demonstration to show how unshrouded light has too much glare, and actually prevents the viewer from seeing objects under the light, whereas a reflector directing the light downwards makes the objects more visible, and has less wasted light. This can also save energy by making more of the light useful. The information about this program can be found at www.darksky.org.

They acquired the map of the town lighting from NIPSCO, and actually were able to reduce the number of streetlights from 61 to 48 (Ogden Dunes has 80). NIPSCO initially quoted \$125 each for the shrouds, but as the time needed to get buy-in from the community grew, the final price was \$195 each. This was still better than other outside quotes. High-pressure sodium vapor lights were recommended over LEDs. They mentioned that Lowe's sells IDA approved residential fixtures.

A workgroup will be needed to push this forward, and Tom and Paul will review the town ordinances with respect to lighting. This will require a significant commitment to educating the public. Presentations about the advantages of downward directed lighting can be given to the various groups in town to get residents interested in the project. An application to the IDA is needed, and the applications of successful communities are available on the above mentioned website. For the application several letters of endorsement will be needed.

Included with these minutes are several documents passed out by the Bells at the meeting, and include the requirements for designation by IDA, facts about light pollution, information about street lighting, the timeline for the Beverly Shores project, and a letter from John Barentine.

Submitted by John Morris.