

Sept19, 2017

International Dark-Sky Association
c/o John Barentine, Program Manager
Tuscan, AZ 85719

Dear John,

In 2015, Horseshoe Bay became one of only two International Dark-Sky Communities in the State of Texas. Due to the residents' preferences for more natural conditions, the city has been successful in preserving the night sky and reducing the many negative impacts of light pollution.

The City passed an Outdoor Lighting Ordinance back in 2005, which was updated in 2015 to be in compliance with the International Dark-Sky Association's standards. Horseshoe Bay has continued to uphold its policy to not provide street lighting along public rights of way, which is a unique feature of this Dark Sky Community. Not only does this enhance the health and safety of the public but it also provides a unique opportunity to engage with the beauty of the night sky and add to the community's character. Horseshoe Bay has adopted an education-heavy approach with the community of resident's, builders, and property owner associations. At the annual Mayor's POA Presidents Forum, the Mayor shared key IDA-related information to all 14 POA presidents, who are doing their part to spread the knowledge amongst their residents.

Other public education efforts have also been undertaken, with informational brochures being made available at City Hall and the Development Services Department. The Utilities Department has established a policy to provide all new utility account holders with an informational packet on the International Dark-Sky Association, thereby familiarizing new residents on this important initiative. Furthermore, commercial developers are required to meet with the Development Services Director prior to submitting any large-scale development plans. During this meeting, they are briefed on the City's lighting ordinance and are coached on acceptable lighting fixtures.

With many environmental preservation initiatives outlined in the City's Long-Range Plan, Horseshoe Bay will continue to engage its residents to work together and be stewards of the night sky for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Stan R. Farmer

Stan R. Farmer
City Manager