

Amelia Brackett Hogstad

From: Planning Commission
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 12:37 PM
To: Amelia Brackett Hogstad
Subject: FW: Dark night sky lighting ordinance at the Planning Commission



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From: H M <hmoshak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:25 AM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@louisvilleco.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Dark night sky lighting ordinance at the Planning Commission

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Dear Planning Commission,

Good morning. Thank you for your good work on the Dark Sky Lighting ordinance. I am a resident of Louisville and a volunteer in Open Space programs and Bee City efforts. I am fully in support of the ordinance and urge you to recommend it for approval to City Council. We need to reduce light pollution, protect our pollinators and wildlife and support natural healthy cicadian rhythms for humans, the whole planet would benefit from less outside light at night. Please be sure to include reducing the maximum allowed correlated color temperature and include compliances methods. We need to be able to educate people about this ordinance and when necessary, enforce it so that we reach our community goals. Thank you for supporting this important ordinance and the health and environment of Louisville.

Cheers,
Helen Moshak
Louisville Resident

Amelia Brackett Hogstad

From: Rick Kron <rickkronco@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 10:04 AM
To: Amelia Brackett Hogstad
Cc: Mark Oberholzer; Ashley O'Connell; Tom Horst; Heather Bingaman; Greg Reedy; Stephanie Schlageter; Eric Reed; Jenni Hlawatsch
Subject: Planning Commission meeting, DeLo Plaza PUD 1st Amend. And Draft Dark Sky Ordinance, Planning Commission Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Good Morning Amelia,

I can't make it to the Planning Commission meeting this week, but can provide the following public input on behalf of the Downtown Business Association of Louisville:

1. The DBA supports approval of the DeLo Plaza PUD, 1st Amendment.
2. The DBA agrees with Mike Deborski's comments that begin on page 63 of the Dark Sky section of the Planning Commission's agenda package. Our primary concerns involve retrofit costs and discouragement of the redevelopment and improvement of existing vacant commercial buildings.

In addition, the proposed ordinance appears to be more complex than necessary, difficult to administer, and difficult to enforce—particularly the trespass regulations. Previously filed public comments cited a number of specifics, several of which were repaired in this draft, but some that were not.

Historic Downtown (HD) seems to be handled well, but prior to the passage of an ordinance, it would be good to have a comparison between the existing HD lighting conditions vs. the requirements that would apply after the passage of an ordinance. How much darker or lighter will HD be if an ordinance is adopted?

The better approach to avoid the impact on vacant buildings would be either (a) to table this ordinance to allow time to develop a regional solution, so the ordinance does not encourage flight to locations outside of the city, or (b) to select the option for 'new construction and replacement lighting only', or (c) to not adopt an ordinance at all.

3. When will the City address the street lighting and rec center lighting issues that residents cited at the open house and written comments?
4. The DBA is in favor of the staff's proposal to develop incentive or assistance programs aimed at encouraging voluntary compliance with the Dark Sky objectives. We feel these should be implemented before or at the same time as the passage of an ordinance on the subject.

Thanks, Amelia, we may not agree on everything, but we appreciate your work on the project and willingness to consider public input.

Regards,

Downtown Business Association of Louisville, Inc.

By: Rick Kron

As: President

Sent from my iPad

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Amelia Brackett Hogstad

From: Planning Commission
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:23 PM
To: Amelia Brackett Hogstad
Subject: FW: Support for dark night sky lighting ordinance



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From: Joshua Cooperman <jhcooperman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 7:38 PM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@louisvilleco.gov>
Subject: Support for dark night sky lighting ordinance

Dear Louisville Planning Commissioners,

I strongly support the City's draft dark night sky lighting ordinance. As stated in section 17.26.010 of this ordinance, and as I have previously explained to City Council (in comments and letters not included in the packet), dark night sky lighting has many benefits and no drawbacks. While residents and business owners have expressed concerns, none of these concerns cannot be addressed within the framework of dark night sky lighting. For instance, adequately lighting sidewalks for pedestrians at night and adequately lighting properties for security at night can most certainly be achieved with dark night sky compliant lighting. Accordingly, I encourage you to recommend this ordinance for approval.

Although City staff has done an outstanding job researching, drafting, and revising the ordinance, particularly in response to resident and business owner input, I believe that the ordinance could be improved and strengthened in a few ways.

Most importantly, I encourage you to recommend the adoption of compliance options 1 and 2, namely, compliance following a tiered amortization period and compliance following substantial building alterations or additions. For all of the reasons listed in section 17.26.010, the City should pursue complete compliance with the ordinance over some reasonable time frame; accordingly, the ordinance must include some mechanism to achieve compliance. Only option 1 has the potential to achieve complete compliance within a reasonable time frame; inclusion of option 2 will speed compliance. I appreciate that option 1 entails enforcement of the ordinance's regulations, but only some form of enforcement will bring compliance. City staff's creative tiered amortization period will provide time to develop creative approaches to enforcement. I have assumed that compliance option 3 will pertain in any case.

Secondly, I encourage you to recommend a maximum correlated color temperature of 2700 K (or even 2200 K) and to include a waiver process allowing a maximum correlated color temperature of 3000 K for cases in which lower temperature lighting is not available. Generally speaking, lower temperature lighting is better: higher lighting temperatures result in bluer light spectra, and bluer light spectra are more detrimental to human and wildlife health and cause more light pollution. (Bluer light scatters more efficiently in Earth's atmosphere, contributing more to sky glow.) For these reasons DarkSky International (formerly the International Dark Sky Association) used to recommend a maximum correlated color temperature of 2700 K and now recommends a maximum correlated color temperature of 2200 K. I appreciate that in certain cases it is difficult or impossible to obtain lighting at these lower temperatures; accordingly, I recommend that the ordinance be amended to include a waiver process that straightforwardly allows correlated color temperatures up to 3000 K in these cases. Although the ordinance does not currently preclude installation of lower temperature lighting, its language, giving only the value 3000 K, will create a bias towards installing lighting at this temperature.

Next, I encourage you to recommend amendments to the ordinance's light trespass regulations.

1. The ordinance currently exempts downtown Louisville from all trespass regulations. I appreciate that the comingling of residential and nonresidential properties in downtown Louisville renders issues of light trespass somewhat more complicated, but I doubt that these issues cannot be addressed. If compliance option 1 is adopted, then existing properties will have at least a few years to address these issues, and, if compliance option 2 or 3 is adopted, then existing properties will not have to address these issues until replacing lights. Moreover, as currently drafted, the ordinance permits light from new developments in downtown Louisville to trespass onto adjacent properties.
2. There are other instances of mixed-use development in Louisville, and I expect mixed-use development to flourish in Louisville. These mixed-use developments do not differ so significantly from those of downtown Louisville to warrant different regulations. Moreover, working through these issues in downtown Louisville will inform lighting design in wider Louisville.
3. The ordinance currently contains no light trespass regulations between commercial properties. Many commercial properties, for instance, in the Colorado Technology Center, contain large swathes of adjacent landscaped areas. These areas do not require lighting at night, and, indeed, these areas support some wildlife to which lighting at night is detrimental. The ordinance should protect these areas from light pollution, perhaps through a modification of the light trespass regulations.

Finally, I encourage you to make the ordinance's exceptions in sections 17.26.080 B1 and B2 less permissive by restricting the number of bulbs. A restriction based on the number of bulbs per unit area illuminated would be appropriate.

I will be out of town this Thursday, so I may not be able to attend virtually to make public comments.

Thank you for considering my recommendations.

Best,
Josh

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Amelia Brackett Hogstad

From: Amelia Brackett Hogstad
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Amelia Brackett Hogstad
Subject: FW: Proposed Dark Sky Ordinance

From: Charles Danforth <charlesdanforth@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 11:56 AM
To: Planning <planning@Louisvilleco.gov>
Subject: Proposed Dark Sky Ordinance

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Unfortunately, I can't make the Planning Commission meeting tonight, but I do have a few thoughts to share regarding the proposed Dark Sky Ordinance.

I am a big proponent of dark skies (as a former professional astronomer and current lover of getting outside in the dark) and I have a pretty good idea of the state of Louisville skies. The new LED street lights which have been going up around town over the past few years are a great start to the problem and I'm glad to see that there is some public interest in the issue. My concerns over the DSO are that it seems to focus entirely on residential lighting which is a very small fraction of the problem. While my neighbor's porch light is a lot brighter than necessary, it's commercial lighting that produces the *vast* majority of the overall light pollution in and around most cities, including ours. In Louisville, the #1 culprit is the Self Storage place just east of Community Park. I've worked with OS Ranger Benjamin White-Paterno using actual sky brightness meters to confirm this. Large parking areas such as those near King Soopers, GHX, and Home Depot are another major contributor, as are the athletic field lights at Monarch and Centaurus High Schools. Unless the DSO makes substantial requirements for existing, non-residential lights, not just new construction, it will be largely a waste of time and will seriously hamper any future efforts at a more substantive, effective way to help make our skies dark again.

Thanks!

Charles Danforth, Louisville resident, OSAB Board member, and Dark Sky advocate

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Amelia Brackett Hogstad

From: Ellie Hassan
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:36 PM
To: Amelia Brackett Hogstad
Subject: FW: Dark Sky Ordinance



From: Laura Levesque-Catalano <lauralevesque@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:14 PM
To: Planning <planning@Louisvilleco.gov>
Subject: Dark Sky Ordinance

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Hello Louisville Planning Commission,

I wish to express my support of Option 1 for the Dark Sky ordinance.
The lighting requirements should be universal and outline an equitable approach for all residences and non-residential properties.
Option 1 follows this approach and thus is preferable.
Options 2 and 3 only pertain for substantial additions/alternations, replacement lighting and new construction and thus do not go far enough.

The Dark Sky ordinance has strong support from community members and thus would be an initiative that most citizens and businesses would be happy to participate in / comply with. Let's maximize the potential for Dark Skies by including as many residents and non-residential properties as possible by adopting Option 1. As cited in the packet, 72% of chamber of commerce members surveyed would "be in support of a dark sky initiative for the city of Louisville."

Please consider and support Option 1 as the best approach for the Dark Sky ordinance.

Thank you,
Laura Levesque
642 West St.

Amelia Brackett Hogstad

From: Planning
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:00 PM
To: Amelia Brackett Hogstad
Subject: FW: Dark Sky Lighting Discussion

Amelia Brackett Hogstad, PhD
Historic Preservation Planner
Planning Department
303.335.4594 (office)
720.665.0662 (cell)

From: 17beevo <garretson17@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Planning <planning@Louisvilleco.gov>
Subject: Dark Sky Lighting Discussion

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Greetings... I encourage the adoption of Option 1 as presented in the 13 July, 2023 staff report. By 2016 80% of North Americans could not see the Milky Way from their home; it has only gotten worse. But light pollution not only impacts humans, but creates significant threats to many species of wildlife, confusing migratory species as well as those with which we share space year round. An amateur astrophotographer in my retirement, I must use special filters to image from my Louisville observatory. Even on a clear night, When I look up I know where the Milky Way is because I know the stars, but I can't see it.

Our city can take this important step to join the effort to reduce light pollution. Please recommend Option 1.

...regards, Stephen Garretson [West Street]

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Amelia Brackett Hogstad

From: Ellie Hassan
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:36 PM
To: Amelia Brackett Hogstad
Subject: FW: Dark Skies



From: Tiffany Boyd <tiffboyd@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 1:50 PM
To: Planning <planning@Louisvilleco.gov>
Subject: Dark Skies

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Dear Planning Commission,

Thank you for serving our community by volunteering on the Planning Commission!

Also, thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue as our city continues down the path of sustainability, economic vitality, and livability. I am writing to you to advocate for option one AND two under the dark skies ordinance recommendations.

1. Bringing existing lighting into compliance through amortization (by a specific date)
2. Bringing existing lighting into compliance using "Substantial Alterations and Additions" language

It is important to set dates of compliance of existing lighting AND to make sure these changes meet appropriate alterations and additions.

Thanks again for taking public comment on this topic.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Boyd
550 Grant Ave.

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