

Letters received via email regarding Dark Skies Ordinance change request, Sept 2014

Mary Jane Coombs:

Dear Planning Commission & Town Board,

I am writing to express my opinion regarding proposed amendment section 1012 site lighting.

First of all the language in 6-5 Dark Skies. The Phrase light pollution is merely a general phrase used to describe some unspecified condition of light vs. dark. Not all light is bad. Dark skies have never been a part of Boulders rural past. The barn yard light has always been a part of farm life in Boulder. If you don't believe me, ask the farmer. It is necessary for all night chores, delivering baby animals, keeping an aeye on activity in the yard.

At Our house 6am bus inspection takes place every school day, chores to do and keeping an eye on all intruders (usually animals) takes place in the dark. I have come connected with the tourism business. Never has anyone inquired of night skies in deterring whether to come to Boulder. Other things are priority. We can "Chicken Little" ourselves into a quandery if we choose to. Just because it is on the internet, does not make it true in Boulder.

Dark Skies are not safe in Boulder. My daughters walking home late at night have nearly fallen into the ditches of water because it was too dark. Myself, I was nearly run over three times by bicycles while walking in the dark. Did I go to the town board to get a new ordinance? No I did not. I solve my own problem by carrying a flash light when I go. We don't need big brother government to solve all our problems. If your neighbors light shines on your property, you can close the blinds. Simple!

Traditionally Boulder has been a community where less government is more. I have heard many say our town regulations are more restrictive than many city governments. Some folks won't want to come to our community if these rules continue to invade our private lives. Dark Skies mentality, is reminiscent of World War II London air raids. Citizens need to be able to move about and live lives without fear of the light policeman. I invision a problem of inforcement of more rules when we have so many that already are not being enforced.

Existing lights are caught up in the verbage of 1012 in that a change requires compliance with new standards. My exisiting light is not safe.

1012 is not good for Boulder. The new down shaded lights do not offer the safety they are intended to. I have walked beneath those in Escalante and dark shadows lurk very close to the path. Anything or anyone can be concealed very close to the path. Not Good.

All lights are not bad. Even mother nature herself does not believe in dark skies. She offers her own bright moon globe and millions of tiny night light stars, fire and lightning. All Through history people have tried to light up the night. There are light houses, the old lamp lighter, candles in the window, a warm hearth, a cozy campfire with friends gathered around singing, telling stories, roasting Marshmallows. We see holiday cards with a cozy snow covered house, windows glow where we envision a happy family enjoying warm traditions. The happiest time of year is symbolized by lights. A good idea is symbolized by a light bulb above the head. Lights in Boulder are a good idea.

Mary Jane Coombs

Ashley Coombs:

To: Boulder Planning Commission & Citizens

I am writing in concern of zoning ordinance 1012 which talks about site lighting in which is being worked on for passage which I strongly oppose and do not want passed. When my Dad was growing up Boulder did not have electricity until he was 10 years old. He went for 10 years of his life being in the dark and I know that he, myself and others do not want a repeat of this.

On the Section 1012 of the site lighting ordinance it states that indoor lighting shall not be provided or constructed in such a fashion to provide lighting for any outdoor areas. If we are not to have this why do we have lights outside the doors of our houses that we call a porch light. These lights we have outside the door of our houses can be seen from a distance and number 1 of the ordinance states that lighting should be minimized trespass to adjoining properties. There are times when I have been out of town for a day and when I come back into town at night I have seen an outside light on at the residence of the individuals who are pushing this dark skies ordinance to pass and could see the outside light coming down off the Boulder Rocks. If we are to minimize lighting so they can't be visible to other properties why have I seen a light from the residence that I mentioned see shining all the way from the Boulder Rocks. Are we also not to have our car lights on at night when driving in town. It seems to me that this ordinance would also cause us not to have our car lights on when we are out and about at night.

Chapter 5-1 States to preserve the open space, clean air, dark skies and quiet style that our families have enjoyed for more than 100 years. We have always had good clean air and open space and we even have it now and will continue to have it without adopting this ordinance. We don't need this ordinance to have this because we already have this and the outside lighting we have now does not put any pollution in the sky and does not cause any other problems. We can all see the night time sky clearly without this

ordinance.

I believe Boulder's night sky is already being protected without adopting this ordinance and I believe that if the town decides to pass this ordinance the businesses will be badly impacted of this, especially the gas stations & motels.

I have an outside light at my house and I am happy to have it. It is something we need and it has really done my family good and we plan to keep the light the way it is and nobody can make the owners that have the outside lights turn them off or shield them. I think it is up to the owner to do what ever they want to do with their lights without a member of the planning commission or town council telling them what to do.

Another concern I have is there has been occasions when my Mom has been taking walks in the dark at night and there have been people riding down the road at night without lights which is really scary and I think there should be action taken about that by adding more lights along the street, especially the Lower Boulder Road to prevent the fear of an accident from happening from somebody hitting into somebody walking for not having a light. When my sister Holly was still living here she walked home one night in the dark and she couldn't hardly even see and she was afraid she was going to run into something or fall in the ditch because it was so dark she couldn't even see where she was going. As you can see we are in need of more lighting rather than trying to illiminate the lighting we already have. My suggestion to people that do not want outside lighting is to close your blinds or curtains that are in your windows.

Please do not mess with the lighting that we have had in Boulder all these years. I have been a resident of Boulder for 33 years now and have been satisfied and happy with the lights that we have here in town and I don't want anything happening to them. I hope you will respect my wishes and leave the lights in Boulder alone.

Sincerely,
Ashley Coombs

Tina Karlsson:

It has come to my attention that the lighting ordinance is under scrutiny.

I believe that this is the best ordinance that Boulder has. It is in our general plan to preserve the rural quality of the town and protecting the night sky's a big part. We the folks in Boulder, have the ability to see amazing stars right from our front doors. Why would we want to loose that very special feature of our

town. I believe that if the town shielded the light on the town grounds basket ball court it would show how this ordinance only discourages the light that shines out toward the sky; and does not affect the safety/user feature of these lights.

My hope the town council will vote in favor of keeping the night sky protection.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Karlsson
PO Box 1385
Boulder Utah 84716
435-335-7312

Bob Phillips:

Att: Boulder Planning Commission
c/o Judy Davis, Boulder Town Clerk
Re: Proposed Dark Skies Ordinance
Date: Sept. 5, 2014

Hello Judy,

Please include my letter endorsing the proposed Dark Skies Ordinance in the record. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Bob Phillips
435-335-7612
whiteraven@blackfoot.net

Dark Skies Ordinance would protect the values residents care about most

Please accept the following comments from a resident of Boulder who values the quiet, rural lifestyle of the community as well as the nighttime skies, which are among the clearest and sharpest in North America.

I believe the proposed Dark Skies ordinance would help protect exactly the values that Boulder's diverse residents hold in common. We live here for the most part because we're more than willing to trade off the supposed "comforts" of more developed locales in exchange for an often more rugged and much more isolated lifestyle - amidst an incredible landscape.

Part of that lifestyle involves being spared the noise, haste and lights of the city. Too many places in America, and across the rural West, have been overcome by the kind of development

that does not respect rural values - peace and quiet, a slower pace and starry nighttime skies you can still see.

In the cities and in many small towns across the land, the overblown lighting of strip malls, car lots and other runaway developments blot out those heavenly skies that rural folks have long grown to take for granted. Little spots along the highway shine forth with lights that run all night for no reason, turning a natural human birthright into a mass of light that transforms the dark calm of residential nights into glaring and annoying nightscapes.

Boulder is a community challenged to find ways to grow and build a necessary infrastructure allowing for greater local economic independence and resiliency in an increasingly uncertain world, while at the same time avoiding the poorly planned and aesthetically unattractive results of development that plague - and have often virtually ruined - many formerly attractive towns across America.

As a native of Montana, I've seen what can happen in terms of runaway "growth" and how quickly it can happen. One example: The upper Flathead Valley was once prime farmland and open rural spaces in one of the most scenic places you might imagine, on the doorsteps of Glacier National Park. The number-one goal of the various local governments' planning efforts - decades ago - was to protect prime farmland and open spaces between the main towns from being lost to residential and commercial development. In spite of those concerns and many warnings about the consequences, the upper Flathead Valley today has lost the vast majority of its once top-quality farmland to townhouse developments, strip malls, box stores and other very typical runaway development. The costs now and down the line from failing to protect those vital spaces and soils are enormous.

Here we can still plan wisely for the future, finding ways to encourage locally owned enterprises that boost local economic livelihoods while preventing strip development, establishment of non-locally owned national franchises and other development that is clearly out of character for the town, its unique location and the people who live here.

The proposed Dark Skies ordinance will not affect any current landowners and their lighting systems. It simply would prevent future developments from coming in and blasting the town with unnecessary bright lights that are unshielded to keep the lighting projected downward. No more starry skies. No more rural nighttimes. Would that transformation of life today be what we want for our future, the town's future, and the future of those children of today who might wish to live in the Boulder of tomorrow?

Concerns over new regulations are understandable, but it must be made clear that this is a local, homegrown ordinance taking into concerns the needs and desires of all residents as well as the good of the town as a whole. The current residents and businesses in Boulder will not be required to change anything. This ordinance looks to the future, which Boulder residents must do if they want to continue living in a place that is often economically challenging, but as close to paradise as you're likely to get in this modern day world.

Please pass the Dark Skies ordinance so that Boulder can maintain the kind of rural, country lifestyle highly valued by people of all stripes who live here. We live in a place that deserves special respect, and an obligation and responsibility to the land, the community here and future generations.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Phillips
905 W. HW12 N
P.O. Box 2313
Boulder, Utah 84716

Constance Lynn:

Dear Planning Commission:

Please note for the record that I am in favor of a Dark Skies Ordinance.

Thank you,

Constance Lynn

Jade Scherer:

Hi Peg...just want this to be in lieu of an official vote....(whatever that is) I SUPPORT the DARK SKIES initiative!!! yes yes yes! thanks, jade
