Sharon Gillespie

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1 – The City is now in the process of updating the General Plan. Will you support the results of the survey that show an overwhelming support of the night sky and strengthen the provisions in the General Plan to preserve and protect the night sky?

Yes

Would you like to comment on your response?

I was honored to serve on the Survey Team and have read all the responses and the data. I believe we have a duty to the people who took the time to complete the survey to use this information in every decision we make.

2 – The General Plan includes Vision and Goals for protecting the night sky by carefully regulating lighting while also promoting growth and safety for residents. With increased growth comes increased lighting. How will you balance the two?

The greatest concern I have currently is the State interfering in this process as they look to be in the areas of design and color and zoning. My hope is that we will be able to hold fast to the standards we want, I think we can work with our public safety team effectively to ensure the safety of our residents and still have our Night Sky.

3 – It's been proven that well designed, appropriate lighting can protect the night sky and provide safety for residents. Will you support a lighting ordinance that meets both needs?

Yes

Would you like to comment on your response?

I will, but again, my concern is if the State will attempt to take this away from the council. Additionally, there are many residents concerned about Property Rights - people are not really open to being "told" what to do on their home/land. We need to present the information taking these beliefs and values into account.

4 – The General Plan states "The purpose of the Ivins City General Plan is to steer development toward a well-conceived future preserving the city's magnificent natural assets and desirable lifestyle by avoiding the pitfalls of reckless growth." Do you believe the night sky is a natural resource?

Yes

Would you like to comment on how you will adhere to the above declaration.

Our sky, land, air and water are all natural resources that need protecting. It will be interesting how the General Plan (undergoing revision currently) will qualify and quantify this protection.

5 – In 2019 Ivins Night Sky Initiative was on track of achieving the International Dark Sky Association's (IDSA) Community Designation for Ivins City which would have acknowledged and promoted the city's commitment to protecting the night sky. While the City chose not to pursue the city-wide designation at that time, the IDSA does have a smaller "development" category. Would you support and help facilitate developments within the city applying for the IDSA designation?

Yes

Would you like to make any additional comments for our supporters?

We are facing challenging times and changes ahead. We need leadership that can be open to all perspectives and ideas and we need to listen to ALL the voices in Ivins to move forward but keeping Ivins special