



MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: KATIE KENT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
RE: CONSENT ITEM: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COLORADO DARK SKY CERTIFICATION MENTOR PROGRAM
DATE: October 8, 2024

Summary and Background:

At the October 8th Town Council meeting, Staff is requesting Town Council support the Town submitting an application to the [Colorado Dark Sky Certification Mentor Program](#) through the CO Tourism Office and DarkSky Colorado. Applications are due October 10, 2024 and Planning Staff have already submitted a Letter of Interest and received a response that we are encouraged to apply to this funding opportunity. Participants in the Colorado Dark Sky Certification Mentor program will receive 70 hours of free consulting from DarkSky Colorado to implement activities that reduce light pollution and protect access to Colorado's incredible night skies.

Award notifications will be made on November 1, 2024 and if approved, work will begin in December 2024 and shall be completed by June 2025. Emma Heth, Planner with the Community Development Department would be the lead on this project.

On March 26, 2024 Town Council held a work session to provide Staff direction regarding pursuing an International Dark Sky Community certification through DarkSky International. At the work session, Council directed Staff to begin pursuing certification. Over summer 2024, Planning Staff submitted an application to be entered into the pipeline for certification. On August 7th, the Town received written confirmation that we are eligible to continue in the International Dark Sky Community application process. The next step is for Planning Staff to meet with a representative with DarkSky International on September 30th, and to submit the application and attached letter of support by October 10th.

Financial Impact: The Town spent \$250 to enter the official application process to be entered into the pipeline for certification. If the Town applies for, and receives the mentor assistance, seventy hours of mentoring support would be provided to the Town. The only financial impact to the Town would be staff time to participate and receive assistance in planning meetings with the Colorado Tourism Office and DarkSky Colorado to develop a scope of work for 70 hours of free consulting. Staff would then act as a support team to assist in implementing the agreed upon scope of work.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: The recently adopted 2024 Strategic Plan includes the strategic objective "Provide progress-driven Quality Core Services" including the pillar:

- **Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change:** This pillar emphasizes the commitment to protecting the environment and taking proactive steps to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Dark sky-friendly outdoor lighting supports Frisco's Quality Core Services by improving Frisco's environmental stewardship and enhancing our public infrastructure to improve safety and quality of life for residents and wildlife.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends supporting the Town's application to the [Colorado Dark Sky Certification Mentor Program](#) through the CO Tourism Office and DarkSky Colorado.

Reviews and Approvals: This report has been reviewed and approved by:

Diane McBride, Assistant Town Manager
Tom Fisher, Town Manager
Leslie Edwards, Finance Director

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Support Letter