



MANITOU SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

All upcoming PARAB meetings are scheduled to be remote, via Zoom. A link is provided on the City's Official Website at <https://www.manitouspringsgov.com/544/All-Boards-and-Commissions>

March 3, 2025

6:00 PM

Those in attendance:

Danu Fatt, Chair (2/28/2029)
Tim Bresnahan, Vice Chair (02/28/2029)
David Crawford (02/28/2026)
Christina Grow (2/28/2028)
Anthony Lane (02/28/2027)
Colin McAllister (02/28/2029)
Rebecca Wood (2/28/2028)

Staff and Liaisons:

Natalie Johnson, Council Liaison
Gillian Rossi, Parks & Recreation Director

Alternates:

Candace Craig, Secretary (2/28/2027)
Jan Johnson (2/28/2029)

Guests:

Manuel Pulido, First Nations artist
Steve Moll, Clean Air Lawn Care

I. CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve: Jan

Colin seconds the motion.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft Minutes from PARAB 10-28-2024 Special meeting
The one with Robyn & Mia (draft of master plan). PARAB gave input.
Danu moves to approve.
Dave seconds.
2. Draft Minutes from PARAB 11-18-2024 Special Meeting
3. Draft Minutes from PARAB 12-02-2024 Regular Meeting
4. Draft Minutes from PARAB 1-13-2025 Special Strategic Meeting

Jan makes a motion to approve with the amendment of her last name from Jones to Johnson.

Candace seconds. All approve.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA

(Please limit your comments to 3 minutes)

NONE

V. PRESENTATION (please limit presentations to 15 minutes)

1. Grant Opportunity for Flats Overlook Park / Manuel Pulido

Would like to rename Higginbotham Flats/Overlook Park to something akin to “Bear Brothers Park/Flats,” a reference to the stone-bear brothers story (four directions) Mani and his siblings used to hear (with a ceremony). When Mani built a sculpture at the Flats, he found an ancient pipe (likely Ute). All of this led him to want to take advantage of available grants to help finish the project.

Here are examples of available grants (renaming would help get these grants):

1. Tribal Tourism offers up to 500,000 in grants.
2. Wake Up Native grant (up to \$175,000) must connect to Ute or Native people in some way. Today was the last day to apply for this grant, so it is too late this year.

These are tribal government grants. Mani says they are not related to the federal government, and the current administration will not affect the awards/distribution of these grants.

Danu: The Flats have been designated a park. Dave worries there might be community pushback on renaming the park. PARAB members do not generally share this concern.

PARAB is interested in helping Mani achieve his goal. Rebecca supports it and will help to check over the grant, develop, and polish it.

2. Discussion to expand Disc Golf / Steve Moll

Steve is part of Clean Air Lawn Care, which provides treatment for our parks in Manitou. Had a major part to play in installing the disc golf baskets in Fields Park. Would like zero Beckers Lane to become an extension of that course. He says it would be a low-cost project, and he is willing to help. Has lots of ideas for the course and how it could be used with different groups. Needs signage, tee pads, and a few more baskets.

Tim: A proven attraction. People use it.

Danu: Wants a survey of the community. But some people don't like it because it makes it hard for people with dogs to use the grass area. People don't want to get in the way of the frisbees, so it is a deterrent.

Jan: Would like a little education (e.g., what do tee boxes look like?).

We will revisit this topic in April or May. Steve can send extra information in the meantime.

VI. REPORTS (5 minutes)

1. Arborist Report

We are in between city arborists. They are interested in hiring a guy from Aurora. They are currently awaiting the background check. Aaron Reynard is the current acting arborist.

Good news: Manitou was deemed a "Tree City USA!"

2. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB)

3. Council Liaison

A. Metro District proposed dissolution

Wichita Lot, Ute Pass Motel, and Smischny Lot. Natalie is not permitted to speak about it.

Tomorrow night, Council will be approving the Black Canyon Open Space plan, parking in Soda Springs Park (one spot for dropoff and parking along the park).

Fire mitigation grants will be available soon.

4. Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)

A. OSAC Approved Minutes 07-22-2024

B. OSAC Approved Minutes 08-26-2024 Meeting

C. OSAC Approved Minutes 09-23-2024 Meeting

D. OSAC Approved Minutes 10-28-2024 Meeting

E. OSAC Approved Minutes 11-25-2024 Meeting

VII. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. Director's Report

Adopt a Park program is up and running. Parks left to be adopted are Fields Park, Soda Springs, Iron Springs, Creekwalk Trail, garden beds, etc.

Dog waste is a problem, especially in Fields Park.

Steve is our turf manager.

Soda Springs Park concrete was poured for the ADA ramp and smaller sections. Crusher fines will be finished this week. Danu says the crusher fines should've been

red, according to the ordinance, not gray. Gillian says otherwise, as she consulted the emails.

Project should finish before summer begins.

Parking update for Soda Springs Park.

Manizoo is being fixed. Tiles will be repaired.

Certain playground parts need replacing in many of our parks, e.g., Memorial Park bar needs replacing. Look for Gillian to ask for support in the future. These sorts of things are kind of costly.

Hiring update: hiring two technicians for forestry and downtown.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mini-Grant / Cassandra Bresnahan

She is doing a run to raise money for Manitou schools. Requesting \$1,000 by April 25. Covers the same costs as last year. She wants to have the money upfront so she doesn't have to pay for big things with her own money or the school's money. Example costs: expensive timing system, porta-potties, etc.

Last year, the run netted about \$10,000.

Jan motions to approve. All approve. Motion passes to forward \$1,000 to Cassandra Bresnahan. Tim Bresnahan abstains from the vote.

Danu suggests that Cassandra try to find other/additional sponsors for next year's run. Tim says Cassandra is working on that.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. Continuing partnerships with Crane and MAT for Art Opportunities (Tim)

Will work to add art and opportunities throughout more of the park areas and to Zero Beckers Lane. More art displays.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

1.

Discuss Dog Park possibilities (Candace). Danu says there are no possibilities at the moment. Danu worries about poop because of poop problems with Fields Park. Candace says poop is an issue, but

it will be less so if other people are there to see people pick up or not pick up their dog's poop.

Danu: We'll put it on the list.

Rebecca would like a dog park if we can find a space for it.

2. Danu won't be here in April. Tim will take over the meeting.

3. Chris likes the new bench at Wheeler. Thank you, Gillian.

4. For Zero Beckers Lane, Chris suggests a "forest bathing" area. In other words, don't add more man-made structures to it. Candace agrees wholeheartedly with Chris (and Anthony). She would like to see fewer structures that include a lot of ugly metal. If there is art, she would like to see it formed out of more natural materials, like the little house carved from the tree in Memorial Park (Tim mentioned this before).

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Danu moves to adjourn at 7:30 PM

Board Members:

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Staff and Liaisons:

Natalie Johnson, Council Liaison
Gillian Rossi, Parks & Recreation Director
Matthew Nelson, Arborist and Horticulturist
Roy Chaney, Deputy City Administrator/Public Services Director

Alternates:

Candace Craig, Secretary (2/28/2027)
Jan Johnson (2/28/2029)

1 alternate position available

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Interested citizens are invited to serve on any of the City's Boards or Commissions. Please contact the City Clerk's Office for more information or visit our website at: www.manitouspringsgov.com.