



**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Regular Meeting Minutes
Remote Meeting via Zoom
June 23, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBER OPENINGS & ELECTIONS

Chair Conley called the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair David Conley
Committee Member Sheryl Cline
Committee Member Andrea Sutela
Committee Member Judy Carnick
Committee Member Anthony Maltese
Committee Member Paul Arlinghaus

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Committee Member Robin Kovats (arrived at 6:07 PM)
Alternate Committee Member Nancy Wilson

1. There are two openings for alternate members.

There was a brief discussion of openings, and a request for recommendations by Chair Conley. There were no recommendations during the meeting.

2. Elect Vice Chairperson

Chair Conley requested recommendations for Vice Chair.

Committee Member Arlinghaus volunteered for the Vice Chair position.

Committee Member Cline moved to nominate Committee Member Arlinghaus and Committee Member Sutela seconded the motion. The motion passed (6-0).

3. Resignation of Nancy Wilson

A brief discussion was held regarding the resignation of Committee Member Wilson.

Chair Conley noted that she offered her assistance with “institutional memory” within the letter.

Note for the Record – Committee Member Kovats joined the meeting at 6:07 PM.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. None available at this time.

No minutes were discussed.

C. AGENDA REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Note for the record – Public comment was heard after Section G, Future Agenda Items.

Mobility and Parking Advisory Board (MAP) Chair Cory Sutela shared that he has been a part of different groups that are in support of the Bill Bauer Trail project, and that he was alarmed to hear that the Chair and some other members of the committee haven't heard comments in support of the project. He added that it is part of the post plan to have the Ring Manitou trail with a lot of work invested over the years.

D. REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) UPDATE

- a. Approved Minutes for PARAB 04-07-2025 meeting

The committee briefly reviewed PARAB minutes. Chair Conley requested an update on Soda Springs Park. Parks and Recreation Director Gillian Rossi stated that the project will be completed on June 24, 2025 and a soft opening will be hosted that day. A grand opening will be held on Monday June 30, 2025.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2026 Grant Opportunity – conservation Service Corps (Dave, Gillian)

The committee discussed the use of Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Youth Corp Conservation Grant for trail repairs and updates. The deadline is July 30, 2025, for grant approved work to be done next year. The Grant requires a 10% match from the committee and requires a request for at least 2 weeks' worth of work.

Director Rossi explained that trail repairs and updates would be roughly \$28,000, meaning the OSAC committee match would be roughly \$3,000. She suggested using the Grant for noxious weed mitigation and possibly fire mitigation.

Committee Member Sutela recommended a supervisor be present to accompany the Youth Corp.

Director Rossi verified that the Youth Corp is experienced in weed mitigation, and the process would be all mechanical in nature.

Committee Member Kovats suggested the grant be used for weed mitigation along trails rather than fire mitigation.

Committee Member Maltese suggested adjacent properties to trails be included in the scope of work.

Committee Member Carnick suggested asking for adult volunteers to accompany the Youth Corp.

Committee Member Carnick moved to apply for the Grant for weed mitigation and Committee Member Cline seconded. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

2. Discuss location for July 28th, 2025, OSAC Meeting

There was discussion about finding a new in-person location for the July 28, 2025, meeting due to poor acoustics at the Manitou Arts Center (MAC) building. No location was decided on during the discussion. Chair Conley stated he would continue to look for a location with Director Rossi's assistance and share his findings with the committee.

Committee Member Carnick suggested the use of the community room at the Manitou Springs Library.

Chair Conley stated that if the committee is unable to find an onsite location, then they would return to meeting on Zoom.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Bill Bauer Open Space

a. Update from 6/10/2025 City Council Work Session (Gillian and Paul)

Director Rossi started the discussion with an update from the work session held by City Council. She stated that Council wants the committee to move forward the development of the survey, with instructions to update the questions. It was suggested by Council that a professional service be used to conduct the survey. Council also requested that Director Rossi prepare a cost analysis of trail construction, provide quotes for an environmental impact survey, and determine the project's priority within the committee. Director Rossi shared that she contacted Kimley-Horn, a consultant that the City has used in the past, to request a cost estimate to prepare and conduct the survey.

Committee Member Arlinghaus expressed concern about project funding, citing the budget shortfall and the fact that the expense would fall on OSAC.

Committee Member Carnick voiced concerns about not owning the easement for the property, and reported receiving predominantly negative feedback regarding the project. She suggested the committee conduct the survey before spending money on consultants and environmental impact surveys to gather community input project first.

Committee Member Arlinghaus noted that the main issue in deciding how to move forward is whether spending funds to gain insight on community support or opposition is appropriate.

Council Liaison Judith Chandler stated that she and Councilor John Shada were the two most vocal at the work session regarding the open space. She shared that there was Council consensus on the survey, though there were questions regarding whether the committee will put more emphasis on the community members most impacted by the project or not. It was also noted that budget concerns arose during the discussion in the work session. She added that correspondence received by the Council was evenly split for and against the project.

Committee Member Sutela stated, based on her observations, there is a large amount of support for the project and added that she welcomes the professional survey.

Committee Member Maltese supports the survey as well.

Director Rossi explained that the survey will include maps, trail concepts and the specific property location, and added that she believes most community members may not know the exact location.

Committee Member Kovats stated that if the survey is done and found to have overwhelming support, then the issue of the easement can be re-addressed with the current landowner.

2. Rocky Mountain Fields Institute

a. Summary of 2025 Trail Projects (Gillian, Dave, Paul)

Director Rossi reported that all projects went well, including the Intemann Trail re-route, the drainage repair going up Red Mountain and the staircase repair at the Iron Mountain trailhead.

b. Contract Renewal for 2026 (All)

There was a discussion regarding the renewal of the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) contract. Director Rossi stated that if a renewal is considered, the proposed contract should be finalized by February.

Chair Conley stated that the contract will be discussed further at the August meeting.

There was a brief discussion about the potential impact of the tax measure on the ballot. Council Liaison Chandler stated that it may impact the funding for OSAC with regard to tax collection but it is currently unclear.

3. Black Canyon Open Space

a. Fire Mitigation Update (Gillian)

Director Rossi shared that there might be additional grant opportunities for fire mitigation, due in July.

Committee Member Carnick stated that she discussed the delay of the fire mitigation demonstration with Fire Lieutenant Mike Willie and noted that it needs to be prioritized.

4. Trail Maintenance

a. Update on Intemann Trail Wayfinding Project (Gillian)

Director Rossi stated signage for the project arrived and that installation will start soon.

b. Storm Damage to Trail System (All)

Committee Member Arlinghaus shared post storm analysis showing that drainage work seems to have benefited trails. Trails that were worked on and those that could use some assistance with drainage were reviewed. He suggested that committee members hike the trails after rain to identify areas that could use drainage work.

c. Iron Mountain Trail Maintenance Request for Bids (RFB) (Paul, Dave, Gillian)

Director Rossi asked if the committee was ready to move forward with the RFB process. Consensus was to move forward keeping the previous year's budget for bids in mind.

Committee Members Carnick and Arlinghaus volunteered to assist with site walks for future bids.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Conley requested an update on Creek Walk Phase 6.

Director Rossi stated that there should be an update on the Creek Walk project by July and noted that the current priority is Phase 4. She added that she would reach out to Public Services Director Ben Schmitt for a progress report on Phase 6.

Council Liaison Chandler announced that the Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) conference is coming up, October 6, 2025 through October 8, 2025. She added that registration starts in July and it will be hosted in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

There was a brief discussion about the upcoming budget meeting. It was determined that the committee would meet on July 23, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM for a budget retreat.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Carnick made a motion to adjourn. Committee Member Sutela seconded. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).
The meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

If you need this document in an alternative format, such as large print, accessible PDF, or Braille, please contact the City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@manitouspringsco.gov or (719) 685-2554.