



CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
MANITOU ARTS, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE BOARD
Special Meeting Minutes
Meeting via Zoom
January 30, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Routon called the Manitou Arts, Culture, and Heritage Board (MACH) meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair Ralph Routon
Vice Chair Kinsey Watts
Board Member Wren Almitra
Board Member Marcus Medina
Board Member Neale Minch
Alternate Board Member Jason Wells
Alternate Board Member Nancy Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Board Member Mark Lee
Board Member Peter Sommers

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Member Minch moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Kinsey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

III. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT ON THE AGENDA – PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO 3 MINUTES

There was no public comment.

IV. REPORTS – CITY COUNCIL LIAISON & STAFF

1. Judith Chandler, City Council

Council Liaison Judith Chandler reminded the board that February 7, 2025, is the grand opening of the library. She also stated that City Council had a special emergency meeting regarding the Paragon Development where it was discussed that Paragon will be trying to obtain a grant to provide 43 apartment units as affordable housing.

2. Becca Davis, City (Nicole Ortega, City, standing in for Becca Davis)

There was no discussion and nothing to report.

V. BUSINESS

1. Tier 1 Presentation, Manitou Springs Heritage Museum (Michelle Anthony)

Manitou Springs Heritage Museum (MSHM) Board Member Michelle Anthony presented an overview of the museum, outlining its mission to collect, preserve, research, and interpret the history and culture of Manitou Springs and the Pikes Peak region. She highlighted 2024 accomplishments, noting completion of the downstairs remodel and associated interior and exterior restoration, with a public reopening held on June 7, 2024. MSHM Board Member Anthony discussed ongoing goals, including continuation of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) intern program, debt elimination, development of a digital docent tour, and expansion of the board by two members. She explained that Tier 1 MACH funding would support repayment of approximately \$60,000 in outstanding debt, continuation of the UCCS program, and implementation of PastPerfect software. Long-term plans include installation of an ADA compliant elevator, stairway improvements, and redevelopment of the second floor and “The Manitou Railyard” exhibit.

2. Tier 2 Invitees: Manitou Springs Music Foundation (Eddy Lieberman),
Carnivale Parade (Jenna Gallas), Pikes Peak Bulletin (Lyn Harwell or Heila
Ershadi)

Manitou Springs Music Foundation President Eddy Lieberman reported that there were 40 events last year. He stated that he intends to include the local youth in the future. The overall goal is to continue to support live music in Manitou Springs.

Jenna Gallas, Board Chair of Manitou Carnivale, reported that for the first time in 32 years, Manitou Carnivale has been established as a nonprofit organization. She announced several upcoming events, including a Craft Day at the Manitou Art Center (MAC) on February 8, 2025, which will encourage community creativity and participation. A Masquerade Ball is scheduled for February 22, 2025, at the Iron Springs Chateau, and the annual Carnivale Parade will be on March 1, 2025, at 1:00 PM.

Lyn Harwell, Publisher of the Pikes Peak Bulletin (PPB), reported that it costs around \$5,000 a week to put the bulletin out. He stated that they have a non-profit newspaper consultant from New Hampshire to help analyze sustainability. One large point of interest for the Bulletin is digital presence. He stated that collaborations with social media platforms continue to grow. The Bulletin is starting a series of community meetings with specific topics to discuss.

Heila Ershadi, Managing Editor of the PPB, shared that she is trying to bring awareness to the role MACH plays in the community. She added that many people reached out to

partner with the Bulletin on an infectious generosity project. She announced that the Bulletin is re-incorporating as a Non-Profit organization.

3. Status Report on Grants with Eligibility Questions (Ralph Routon)

Chair Routon reported that the six grants discussed at the previous meeting require a pass-through letter and confirmed that there are no eligibility concerns.

Board Member Minch commented that the application titled “A Gift Bag for the Homeless” may not align with the MACH grant, noting that it appeared to be more social in nature.

Board Member Almitra stated she did not see an issue with the application’s eligibility.

The consensus was to keep the applicant under consideration.

4. Review Tier 2 Mini-Grant Applications – Discuss any with uncertain grades. Decide Up or Down on Approvals or Rejections

Chair Routon called for informal “up or down” votes on each Tier 2 Mini-Grant application. An “Up” vote indicated consensus to retain the application for further consideration, while a “Down” vote indicated consensus to remove it from consideration.

- **Art as Expression** – Up
- **Three Altitude Makers Market** – Up
- **Student pottery – 5th Grade** – Up
- **Community Costuming Creation** – Up
- **PaC-Man: Let’s Get Walking and Rolling, Manitou!” 2025** – Up
- **Paint Night** – Up
- **Manitou Made Market** – Up
- **Dyeing with Indigo**, in collaboration with District 14 art classes – Up, with the caveat that a letter from the School District be provided, as suggested by Board Member Wells.
- **“Unleash the Flow” Creative Art Therapy** – Up
- **Maori Garment Stitching “Whatu Aho Rua”** – 2 Pair Twining - Up
- **Creating a Ribbon Skirt** – Up
- **Pottery Wheel for Classes #1** – Up, with the caveat that ownership of the pottery wheel be defined.
- **Yoga Manitou** – Up, with partial funding of \$250 to support purchase of a limited number of mats.
- **Learn to Sew!** – Up, contingent upon the activity taking place in the City.
- **Pottery Wheel for Classes #2** – Down

5. Optional, if Time Permits, Start Review of Tier 2 Regular Grants, continuing Feb. 6, 2025

Chair Routon called for informal “up or down” votes on each Tier 2 Regular Grant application. An “Up” vote indicated consensus to retain the application for further consideration, while a “Down” vote indicated consensus to remove it from consideration.

- **Manitou Doors** – Down
- **Manitou Springs: Aliens Welcome!** – Down
- **The Wit** – Down
- **Expressions Sessions – Healing Art Groups** – Down
- **Clayfest** – Discussion never landed on a decision.
- **We Are A Circle Council Workshop...Using the Arts in Authentic Circle Practice** – Down
- **Flying Pig Album Release and Show** – Down
- **Destination Rest: A Community Nap** – Continued consideration for partial funding.
- **Jump Start Art – Mini Manitou** – Continued consideration for partial funding.

The consensus that the board would stop for the night and pick up with grant applications at the next scheduled meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Routon adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM.

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