



**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Regular Meeting Minutes
In-Person Meeting at 606 Manitou Avenue
October 27, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Conley called the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meeting to order at 6:05 PM and noted that a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair David Conley
Vice Chair Paul Arlinghaus
Committee Member Andrea Sutela
Committee Member Anothony Maltese
Alternate Committee Member Cassandra Bresnahan
Alternate Committee Member Marion Ceruzzi

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL

Committee Member Sheryl Cline (Arrived at 6:06 PM)
Committee Member Robin Kovats (Arrived at 6:07 PM)
Committee Member Judy Carnick (Arrived at 6:20 PM)

1. The Chair confirmed to the members that the City Council had appointed Cassandra Bresnahan and Marion Ceruzzi as OSAC Alternate Members.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

Note for the Record – Committee Member Cline arrived at 6:06 PM and Committee Member Kovats arrived at 6:07 PM.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. OSAC Minutes for 10-01-2025 Special Meeting

Committee Member Sutela moved to approve the October 1, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Maltese. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

The committee discussed the process of generating the agenda and emphasized the importance of member input for future meetings.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No members of the public requested an opportunity to comment.

E. REPORTS

1. Parks & Recreation Director's Report

a. Creek Walk Phase 6 Grant Match Information

Parks and Recreation Director Gillian Rossi gave an update on Creek Walk Phase 6, which is set to begin construction in early 2027 after final design completion next year, with a \$20,000 OSAC budget line item confirmed for the grant match. Creek Walk Phase 4's ribbon-cutting is scheduled for November 18, 2025 with OSAC's participation requested for a public thank you.

b. VOC Grant Application Update

The Volunteers Outdoor Colorado (VOC) grant application deadline was extended due to the government shutdown, with the new deadline yet to be announced.

c. Bill Bauers Open Space Public Outreach Survey Update

Director Rossi reported on the community survey recommended by City Council and being conducted by Kimley-Horn. The survey is set to launch in early December, with Kimley-Horn compiling and presenting results afterward.

Several committee members provided feedback on the survey questions, suggesting improvements to make them more clear and specific for those unfamiliar with the area. The Committee members agreed to review the survey further and submit any suggestions or edits to Director Rossi by Friday November 7, 2025 ahead of her meeting with Kimley-Horn the following Wednesday.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. 2026 OSAC Budget Proposal Revision (Dave)

- a. Discuss City Council direction pertaining to fire mitigation.

Chair Conley shared that the City Council at its October 7, 2025 meeting, through a unanimous vote, directed the Fire Department and OSAC to prioritize fire mitigation efforts in high-risk areas, specifically the bases of Red Mountain and Iron Mountain. The Council requested specific parcel recommendations and mapping for the initial fire mitigation project, which differs from the previously planned Black Canyon project. He stated that he plans to meet with Fire Lieutenant Mike Willie and Director Rossi to discuss next steps and get new quotes for the Red Mountain and Iron Mountain parcels, as the terrain and access are different.

Note for the Record – Committee Member Carnick arrived at 6:20 PM.

There was a discussion about potentially involving citizens in a training day for small parcel fire mitigation, though details are still being worked out.

The Committee discussed concerns about the process, noting that key stakeholders were not present at the Council meeting where Black Canyon was rejected. They agreed that the Fire Department should develop a prioritized list of mitigation sites and request OSAC funding, rather than having OSAC select sites. The committee also discussed the need for a clearer process and better representation at future Council meetings.

The Committee also considered how to allocate the \$155,000 budget for fire mitigation, with options to use it for other open space parcels or to combine efforts with the Fire Department on priority areas.

Committee Member Kovats moved to approve the revised budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Sutela. The motion carried unanimously (7-0). With this revised budget approved, Director Rossi explained that the next step was presentation of the budget at the Council's budget meeting for its consideration.

2. Parks and Trails Map Update Project (Dave and Gillian)

Director Rossi noted the need for cost estimates and consideration of a digital format with a Quick Response (QR) code.

A subcommittee was proposed to gather input from various stakeholders, including the Mobility and Parking Department, for creating a community map.

3. Iron Mountain Trail Repair Project Update (Paul)

Vice Chair Arlinghaus presented an update on the Iron Mountain Trail repair project, showcasing before-and-after photos of trail improvements to address drainage issues and enhance safety. The final cost was \$17,000 and the Committee consensus was that the work was well received and the money well spent.

The Committee discussed trail improvements and maintenance efforts.

There was a discussion about fire mitigation services, and it was confirmed that the trail construction contractor does not provide this service.

4. October 5th Intemann Trail Workday Review (Paul and Dave)

Cory Sutela of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates shared details about a successful trail workday on October 5, 2025 which involved 18 volunteers and partners from OSAC, Medicine Wheel, and Trail Cats. The group completed drainage installations and repairs on the Intemann Trail, with three new trail maintenance volunteers joining the effort.

5. Trail Maintenance – Planning for 2026

a. Discussion Points:

i. Contracting RMFI for trail work in 2026.

The Committee planned to reevaluate engaging Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) for trail maintenance during the January meeting.

ii. Increased use of user groups in maintenance.

The Committee discussed trail maintenance initiatives, including connecting the three Adopt-a-Trail volunteers to coordinate efforts and creating a volunteer email chain for smaller-scale projects.

iii. Outreach to individuals to participate.

The Committee discussed trail maintenance and the Adopt-a-Trail program, emphasizing the importance of early identification and repair of trail issues. OSAC explored the possibility of extending the Adopt-a-Trail concept to more trail segments to increase reporting and involvement. It was acknowledged that new trail signs were recently installed at a key trail junction on Intemann Trail above the Junior High School. The committee discussed engaging the “neighbor anchors” at each trail head to keep them informed and engaged.

iv. Use of SeeClickFix as app for users to notify City of any issues.

OSAC explored advertising the SeeClickFix application at trailheads to help residents report maintenance issues, and considered pre-scheduling volunteer work days with

groups like Medicine Wheel and Pikes Peak Trail Cats. SeeClickFix notices would be posted at kiosks, handouts on trail encounters.

The Committee discussed plans in January to get on CATS, Medicine Wheel and VOC calendars, and to identify two OSAC maintenance dates in 2026 for Paul, Dave and Andrea to coordinate. Last, Paul explained how the Committee might set up a program for certifying volunteers for independent trail maintenance.

There was discussion about upcoming training opportunities for trail maintenance volunteers, including the Pikes Peak Regional Crew Leader Training in 2026.

G. OTHER BUSINESS

1. November and December meetings

OSAC rescheduled their next meeting for November 24, 2025 to November 17, 2025. It was noted that the Garden Club requested to present their Pollinator Garden Plan during the November meeting. There is no regular meeting scheduled for December, but a special meeting may be held if necessary.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Conley adjourned the meeting (time was not noted).

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