



**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Regular Meeting Minutes
In-person meeting at the MAC
January 29, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBER OPENINGS

Chair Conley called the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

1. There is one opening for an alternate member.

There was no discussion.

2. Welcome to new Council Liaison, Carey Storm.

Chair Conley notified the Committee that Mayor Pro Tem Judith Chandler had withdrawn as the Council Liaison for OSAC and that Councilor Carey Storm, who is also the Liaison for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB), will work with OSAC. Conley shared that he had met with Council Liaison Storm during January to discuss the Committee's plans and projects. Council Liaison Storm was out of town and could not attend this OSAC meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair David Conley
Vice Chair Paul Arlinghaus
Committee Member Judy Carnick
Committee Member Sheryl Cline
Committee Member Robin Kovats
Committee Member Anthony Maltese
Committee Member Andrea Sutela
Alternate Committee Member Cassandra Bresnahan
Alternate Committee Member Marion Ceruzzi

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

There was no public comment.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft minutes of OSAC November 17, 2025 meeting

There was a discussion about the minutes, which were generated by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) program. It was noted that the drafted minutes needed editing and Chair Conley offered to revise and resubmit for approval in February.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. An Executive Session to hold a conference with the City Administrator and Finance Director to discuss potential open space acquisitions.

Committee Member Carnick moved to enter Executive Session for the stated purpose. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Kovats. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Committee entered executive session at 6:07 PM.

The Committee returned to regular session at 7:06 PM.

Committee Member Cline made a motion to recommend an open space acquisition to City Council. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Kovats. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

C. REPORTS

1. Parks & Recreation Director Report.

Parks and Recreation Director Gillian Rossi was absent, but Chair Conley read her report.

a. Update on BCOS Master Plan Implementation

Compass Surveying and Mapping has been hired to conduct a field survey to provide a basis for planning the pedestrian street crossing, the trail along Black Canyon Road and the proposed bridge crossing for Black Canyon Open Space (BCOS).

b. BCOS – Sacred Site Vandalism

Manuel Pulido and Mike Maio reported that a vision quest site located on the cliff rim of BCOS had been damaged. The site is only a few feet from the proposed trail route. Pulido estimated that the site could be as old as 1,000 to 1,200 years. The stones forming a low wall had been pulled down.

The Committee discussed the tension between hiding and preserving a site versus identifying and signing a site as a means to protect it.

Vice Chair Arlinghaus agreed to tour the site with Pulido to evaluate whether the proposed trail can be shifted away from the site.

City Administrator Denise Howell noted that an interpretive sign would be appropriate within the Open Space and that the Parks Department would be the proper party to coordinate the text, style and placement of any signage.

c. Mile High Youth Corps Project Dates and Noxious Weed Management Workshop

Mile High Youth Corps project dates are June 22, 2026 through June 25, 2026 and June 29, 2026 through July 2, 2026.

A Noxious Weed Management Workshop is scheduled for June 11, 2026 from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM and OSAC members were invited to attend.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Fire Mitigation: update on Council budget authorization and planning meeting with MSFD Lt. Mike Willie and City Administrator

City Administrator Howell reported that Council had allocated \$690,000 for fire mitigation efforts in 2026 and that the Fire Department and her office was meeting to plan the project. Their recommendations will go to Council at a work session on February 10, 2026. The Committee will arrange for one or more members to also attend.

2. West End Trail Access: update on communication with David Walton

Chair Conley reported that he had followed up on David Walton's invitation to inquire in January about meeting, but that Walton had responded that he wanted to postpone the meeting until early March.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Black Canyon Open Space: Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) Workday

There was a discussion about a Black Canyon workday. Volunteer for Outdoor Colorado is planning a workday at BCOS on April 4, 2026. Vice Chair Arlinghaus and Chair Conley met with the VOC coordinator and Director Rossi on site in early January to plan the workday.

a. Discuss additional funding for this project

There was no discussion.

2. Alternate Application by Anthony Lane.

It was noted that Anthony Lane had submitted his application and attended multiple OSAC Meetings.

Committee Member Kovats moved to recommend that City Council appoint Anthony Lane as an Alternate Member of OSAC. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Sutela. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

3. Vote on OSAC Board Positions.

The committee determined that they will vote on the board positions at the February OSAC Meeting.

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Standard Operating Procedures: review draft and adopt

There was no discussion.

2. Review Bill Bauers Open Space Questionnaire results

There was no discussion.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Kovats moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Arlinghaus. The motion was carried (7-0).
The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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