



**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Remote Meeting via Zoom
December 1, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Fatt called the Parks and Recreations Advisory Board (PARAB) meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair Danu Fatt
Vice Chair Tim Bresnahan
Board Member Christina Grow
Board Member Colin McAllister
Board Member Rebecca Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Board Member Anthony Lane (Excused)
Alternate Board Member Jan Johnson

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Parks and Recreation Director Gillian Rossi
Council Liaison Natalie Johnson
Robyn Bartling, Principal, Hord Coplan Macht
Mia Requesens, Associate, Hord Coplan Macht

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Member Wood moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Chair Fatt. The motion was carried (5-0).

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. October 6, 2025 PARAB Minutes

Chair Fatt moved to approve the October 6, 2025, minutes with a correction noting that the motion to adjourn in that meeting was made by Chair Fatt and seconded by Vice Chair Bresnahan. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bresnahan. The motion was carried (5-0).

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA

(Please limit your comments to 3 minutes)

There was no public comment.

E. PRESENTATIONS

1. Soda Springs Park Construction Docs Update / HCM (Robyn Bartling and Mia Requesens)

Representatives of Hord Coplan Macht, Robyn Bartling and Mia Requesens, presented updates on the Soda Springs Park Phase III Construction Documents. The following updates to the plan were presented:

- Phase III of the project includes expanded sod on the west side of the park, in front of the Bud Ford Pavilion, and improved accessibility throughout the park by increased accessible pathways.
- The project includes drainage enhancements on the Bud Ford Pavilion and irrigation upgrades throughout the project site.
- The east side of the park will be redesigned to include additional art features and activity elements, including a ping pong table.
- Part of the sidewalk along Park Avenue will be enhanced and include native plantings alongside the walkway.
- The design includes lighting upgrades on the east side of the project site to provide light along the pathways leading from the Bud Ford Pavilion to the restrooms. The stage lighting in the pavilion will also be upgraded.
- The design includes relocation of two dumpsters currently behind the Bud Ford Pavilion. The design has the dumpsters placed next to the sidewalk in an enclosure.
- The design requires zero tree removals and includes one new tree being planted.

Chair Fatt opposed the suggested implementation of reverse-angle parking. Director Rossi stated that this style of parking may be safer for park patrons and is being implemented elsewhere in the city. Vice Chair Bresnahan mentioned that it would be nice to have a large area behind the Bud Ford Pavilion for park patrons to play games, such as "pétanque." Board Member McAllister asked about the timeline for the finalization of the construction documents. Bartling stated that the design would be finalized by February 2026. Director Rossi mentioned that she is requesting the sod phase of the project be priced out separately from the other phases of the project in case grant funding could be secured for the sod part of the project in 2026.

F. REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB)

There were no board member reports.

2. Council Liaison

Council Liaison Johnson mentioned that the Creative Alliance of Manitou Springs (CRANE) could be a good organization to involve in the artist selection for the Soda Springs Park Phase III art features. In relation to the reverse-angle parking mentioned in the Soda Springs Park Phase III design presentation, she stated that reverse-angle parking works well elsewhere in the city and improves safety.

Council Liaison Johnson suggested that the board review the current PARAB Mission Statement and reword it to include “people” and “play.”

Councilor Liaison Johnson shared information pertaining to the City’s budget and the 2A ballot initiative. She stated that the ballot measure had failed and that tight budgets should be expected in 2026 and 2027. She shared that the City of Manitou Springs will conduct public outreach related to funding needs, and that all tax increases require vote during a regular election cycle.

Vice Chair Bresnahan asked if the city was actively pursuing grant funding for projects and programs. Council Liaison Johnson stated that boards are “on [their] own” for the next couple of years pertaining to the pursuit of grant funding.

Council Liaison Johnson expressed appreciation as this was her final PARAB meeting serving as the Council Liaison.

3. Open Space Advisory Report

No discussion took place pertaining to the Open Space Advisory Report.

G. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. Director’s Report

Director Rossi reported on the following:

- The Pool & Fitness Center Roof Replacement Project is on schedule. The goal is to reopen the facility on January 2, 2026.
- The Forestry Division submitted an application to be certified as a “Tree City USA” for the seventh consecutive year.
- No trees will be removed as part of the Soda Springs Park Phase III Project.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Reminder: January 2026 regular meeting canceled.

It was noted that there will be no meeting in January. The next meeting will be on February 2, 2026, at the Manitou Art Center (MAC) at 5:30 PM.

Director Rossi reported increased beaver activity along a section of Fountain Creek near Mayfair Avenue. She stated that 50 small trees have been damaged by the beavers, and that fencing around trees has been put into place to protect the trees from the beavers. Director Rossi asked PARAB members to share their opinions on beaver mitigation.

The board agreed that they support coexistence between people and beavers, and that they recommend protecting key trees with fencing. They recognize the ecological benefits of beaver activity and acknowledged past conflicts when the beavers had been removed by private parties. No formal policy direction was established nor voted on.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fatt moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bresnahan. The motion carried (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

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