



**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**
Regular Meeting Minutes
In-Person Meeting at the Manitou Arts Center
(MAC)
515 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs, CO, 80929
February 2, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Fatt called the Parks and Recreations Advisory Board (PARAB) meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Board Member Anthony Lane (Excused)
Board Member Colin McAllister (Excused)

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Grow. The motion was carried (4-0).

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Elect New Officers for 2026

Vice Chair Bresnahan nominated himself to continue as Vice Chair.

Chair Fatt nominated herself to continue as Chair.

All board members expressed support to keep current officer roles the same.

Board Member Grow motioned to reelect Tim Bresnahan as Vice Chair, reelect Danu Fatt as Chair, and continue rotating the Secretary position until the position is filled officially. Chair Fatt seconded the motion. The motion was carried (4-0).

2. Review PARAB SOP Draft

The Board reviewed the PARAB Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Draft.

Board Member Grow moved to approve the SOP with the following edits:

- “Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee” be corrected to “Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.”
- Several minor grammatical corrections.
- Under the Non-Discrimination section, replace “handicap” with “ability”.
- Under the Regular Meetings section, add, “unless otherwise noted” at the end of item 1.
- Replacing “Zoom” with “City-approved remote conference software” throughout the document.
- Merging items 3 and 4 under the Agenda and Minutes section.
- Cite the related City Ordinance after item 1 in the Budget section.
- Add, “Meetings may be in-person if pre-determined by the board,” under the Remote Participation section.

The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bresnahan. The motion was carried (4-0).

3. Review Mission and Vision Statements

The Board reviewed the current PARAB Mission and Vision Statements and discussed the need for the Mission Statement to be more concise. Chair Fatt shared that the Mission Statement was created by the current PARAB Board, about 15 years ago. Fatt suggested that the correct language is being used, but needs to be adjusted.

Vice Chair Bresnahan concurred and stated that a lot of what is in the Mission Statement could be used in a different place, such as PARAB’s Values.

Board Member Grow mentioned that PARAB’s Values should reflect the community’s values. Vice Chair Bresnahan recommended reviewing PARAB’s Values before reworking the Mission Statement. The Board agreed that the Mission Statement needs reworked and that the Vision Statement is acceptable as is. Further discussion regarding the Mission Statement was tabled until a future meeting. Board Member Wood suggested that all PARAB Members review the Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Plan and Plan Manitou 2.0 prior to the next PARAB Meeting.

There was a discussion about local artists crafting playground equipment instead of ordering from a catalog and “Interactive sculptures” versus “playground equipment”.

4. Discuss how to document the values that have been developed as PARAB, to be able to pass down to future PARAB.

- a. Current Value: Using organic land management practices for our parks (and within the City)

Vice Chair Bresnahan suggested combining some of the values included on the list to avoid being redundant. He also mentioned that “Sustainability” should be one of PARAB’s values.

- b. Current Value: Minimize concrete in our parks, by providing permeable ground surfaces and greenspaces.

No discussion.

- c. Current Value: Urban forestry, planting new trees, minimize cutting down trees and continued maintenance.

No discussion.

- d. Current Value: Plantings should be pollinator friendly and drought resistant.

No discussion.

- e. Current Value: Provide recreation for the community of all ages.

The Board agreed to adjust this value to read, “Support passive and active recreation opportunities for the whole community.”

- f. Current Value: Using engineered wood fiber for playground mulch, steel or aluminum or sustainably harvested timber when possible for playground equipment or recycled plastics for benches and tables.

The Board discussed recommending that local artists be considered first to craft playground equipment instead of ordering equipment from a catalog. Director Rossi emphasized the importance of ensuring playground equipment meets Playground Safety Standards, and that some locally crafted pieces may need to be categorized as “interactive sculptures”.

- g. Current Value: Incorporate stormwater infrastructure with natural bio-swales, open air rock swales, and rain gardens where geologically feasible.

No discussion.

5. Discuss future focus and visions after current park development is completed.

The Board discussed adding another value to the list: "Connectivity to other parks, trails, and open spaces." This would include language from the POST Plan.

The Board also discussed creating a "PARAB Playbook" or "PARAB Manual", consisting of lessons learned and institutional knowledge from Board members who have served several years. The goal of the playbook would be to support a consistent decision-making framework. Jehan-Ara Khan, PARAB Applicant, recommended that Chair Fatt write down each time she completes a task for PARAB to include in the manual. Khan offered to help put Chair Fatt's process into the manual. Board Member Grow commented that a playbook or manual will help PARAB be more credible.

Vice Chair Bresnahan offered to review the values list and edit. He mentioned that he will include an "Art" value.

The Board agreed that a Special Meeting is needed to finalize the Mission Statement, Values, and Playbook.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Identify PARAB projects and goals for 2026-2027-2028

a. Continue with the Flats Overlook Park.

Chair Fatt shared a brief history of the acquisition of the park. She mentioned that now that there is a Master Plan, she would like Hord Coplan Macht (HCM) to do a schematic design for the park to figure out the cost for construction, in order to apply for grants. PARAB would like the park dedicated to the area's indigenous peoples. It was noted that \$60,000 is allocated for the schematic design in 2026.

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to authorize Chair Fatt to request schematic drawings from Hord Coplan Macht for the design of Flats Overlook Park, for an amount up to and not exceeding \$60,000. Board Member Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried (3-0); Chair Fatt recused herself due to a potential conflict of interest as she is also on the Save the Flats Committee.

Director Rossi mentioned that projects exceeding a certain amount must go through a bid or Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Chair Fatt stated that the Higginbotham Flats Master Plan contract awarded to HCM was issued as "Design and Build," eliminating the need to go through the formal RFP process. Director Rossi to check the validity of this.

b. Explore future funding for Soda Springs Park, west side (Phase 3)

Director Rossi stated that grants are currently the only option to continue with construction of Soda Springs Park Phase 3.

c. Research available grants for both projects.

Chair Fatt mentioned that researching grants will most likely be a goal for the next three years.

Vice Chair Bresnahan suggested the Board could revisit rezoning 0 Beckers Lane from Open Space to Park property. The Board expressed mixed feelings.

Board Member Grow expressed interest in acquiring the land across from Fountain Creek, behind the Dillon Mobility Hub. She added that she would like to build a bridge connecting that parcel to Fields Park. Grow also suggested that if the Bill Bauers Open Space connection trail goes in, PARAB goals could include support for signage in Bill Bauers Park, as well as a potential stairway, and a pocket park near Emerald Fields to connect the trail.

Vice Chair Bresnahan suggested goals, including discussion about the timing to rezone 0 Beckers Lane to Park property, acquiring the space behind the Dillon Mobility Hub, potentially connecting the land to Fields Park, and exploring opportunities for pocket parks.

The consensus was that PARAB would support construction of a bridge.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fatt moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM. Vice Chair Bresnahan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

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.