



**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS  
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Remote Meeting via Zoom  
March 23, 2026

**A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBER OPENINGS**

Chair Conley called the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meeting to order at 6:08 PM after a few technical difficulties.

**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 - Absent  
Committee Member Andrea Sutela  
Alternate Committee Member Cassandra Bresnahan  
Alternate Committee Member Marion Ceruzzi  
Alternate Committee Member Anthony Lane

1. No openings or regular members or alternates at this time.

There was no discussion.

2. Committee Membership Change Proposal: Sheryl Cline to move to an alternate position, to be replaced by Cassandra Bresnahan as a regular member. Request committee approval for recommendation to City Council to approve change.

Committee Member Kovats moved to recommend to the City Council that they approve moving Committee Member Cline to an alternate position and Alternate Member Bresnahan to a regular member position. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Arlinghaus. The motion was carried (7-0).

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Conley noted that the Executive Session needs to be cancelled due to the meeting being virtual-only. He explained that Executive Sessions must be held in person.

Committee Member Kovats moved to reschedule the Executive Session and to move the Director's Comments to the end of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Cline. The motion was carried (7-0).

### **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### 1. Draft minutes of OSAC Feb. 23, 2026 meeting

Committee Member Carnick moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Kovats. The motion was carried (7-0).

### **D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment.

### **E. REPORTS**

#### 1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) Update

- a. Approved Minutes for PARAB 02-02-2026 meeting

Chair Conley provided updates on Parks and Recreation matters, including potential developments at Higginbotham Flats Overlook Park and the possibility of acquiring land behind the Dillon Mobility Hub to connect to Fields Park.

#### 2. Director's Comments

- a. Adopt-a-Trail Program Updates
- b. Bill Bauers Open Space – Survey Presentation Date/  
Presentation results by Kimley-Horn has been moved to Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Note for the Record** – The Director's Comments Item was moved to the end of the agenda after Item G1 Trail Maintenance.

### **F. OLD BUSINESS**

#### 1. Governing Protocols

- a. Standard Operating Procedure was adopted Feb. 23, 2026 and Chair Conley reported that the SOP has been filed with City Clerk's Office.

There was no discussion.

## 2. Fire Mitigation Plans

- a. Update on meeting with MS Fire Department about starting a volunteer Wildfire Mitigation Program for open space parcels. (Judy, Gillian)

This discussion focused on three related topics: a flyer informing citizens about mitigation on small open space parcels, ensuring the website has mitigation information, and creating a tool closet for citizens to borrow mitigation tools.

Committee Member Carnick presented an update on a wildfire mitigation flyer developed in collaboration with the Manitou Springs Fire Department. The flyer aims to inform citizens about the availability of Fire Department services, including the Chipper Days program and advice for property mitigation. Board Member Carnick explained that the flyer aims to provide a methodology and path forward for property owners to mitigate fire risks, emphasizing citizen engagement and collaboration.

Carnick also discussed plans for establishing a community tool closet to support community mitigation efforts, with her volunteering to seek tool donations from Lowe's and Home Depot.

Director Rossi stated that she will share the flyer through neighborhood email groups and potentially schools by the end of the week. Rossi confirmed that the application process would allow participants to select specific parcels and workdays.

Rossi highlighted that while some parcels might be difficult for the City to access due to private property requirements, the program would enable individual property owners to take on small-scale fire mitigation efforts, with the Fire Department available to provide guidance and support to volunteers.

The Committee agreed to include Alternate Member Ceruzzi's suggested quote "mitigate to alleviate fire exposure" in the brochure, with additional details about OSAC's involvement to be placed on the website.

Director Rossi confirmed plans to add the chipping schedule and zone map to the brochure, noting that the City would make exceptions for open space parcels that are mitigated.

The consensus was to aim to launch the program and prepare the website within the week.

Vice Chair Arlinghaus inquired about the use of power tools, particularly gas-powered weed trimmers, and suggested combining fire mitigation and trail building efforts by creating a shared tool closet.

Board Member Carnick confirmed that the fire tools would be hand tools like hand saws, loppers and rakes.

The Committee discussed that someone in a neighborhood could self-organize neighbors to use the tools. The lead neighbor would coordinate with the Fire Department and make sure the work was scheduled to coordinate with the Chipper Days schedule.

Board Member Carnick emphasized that having a mobile chipper would serve as a motivator for community participation. Carnick noted that Fire Lieutenant Mike Willie and his team were willing to train local volunteers to handle chipping operations when they couldn't be present.

The Committee discussed promotional strategies for the fire mitigation program. They explored various display locations including the pool sign and kiosk by the Wichita lot for promoting the initiative.

There was a discussion about reporting mechanisms for unaddressed open spaces. Director Rossi clarified that concerned residents would contact her and the Fire Department, with reported parcels being shared with OSAC for consideration at future meetings.

### 3. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) Workday in BCOS – April 4, 2026

- a. Vote on contributing funding to support the project.

The Committee discussed funding a volunteer trail building event organized by VOC scheduled for April 4, 2026.

Vice Chair Arlinghaus moved to contribute \$2,000 to support the event. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Cline. The motion was carried (7-0).

The event will involve 39 volunteers with 4 to 5 crew leaders working on trail building. Several committee members committed to attending to help manage the event.

### 4. BCOS Vision Quest Site – Management Options

- a. Paul Arlinghaus and Marion Ceruzzi on site inspection and discussion with Manny Pulido on options to protect site and to install signage.

Director Rossi reported that she had met on site with Anna Cordova, Garden of the Gods Park Manager and former City of Colorado Springs Archaeologist, who intended to make some inquiries about the site. Cordova also confirmed that a trail 30 meters away from the site would meet tribal and State standards. The Committee agreed to schedule a site visit to assess the topography and trail feasibility.

5. West End

- a. Update on communications with David Walton.

Chair Conley reported that David Walton, a property owner, had asked to schedule a meeting in April and that Conley would follow up with him at the first of the month.

**G. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Trail Maintenance

- a. Discuss trail workday schedule for Spring-Summer 2026.

Vice Chair Arlinghaus proposed bi-weekly Monday evening trail maintenance volunteer events, and the Committee discussed creating a tool library for trail work, with Committee Member Carnick offering to help compile a tool list.

E2. Director's Comments

- a. Adopt-a-Trail Program Updates

There was no discussion.

- b. Bill Bauers Open Space – Survey Presentation Date/  
Presentation results by Kimley-Horn has been moved to Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

There was no further discussion beyond the rescheduling of the presentation.

Director Rossi gave a brief update on the Black Canyon Open Space Master Plan implementation. She reported that Compass Surveying had done its field work, which was necessary for other consultants to evaluate the project and design their components for the project. Kimley-Horn was reported to be scheduling initial meetings with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the City of Colorado Springs.

**H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Consideration of way-finding signage along Creek Walk will be on a future agenda.

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 1. Continue discussion of potential open space acquisition.

**Note for the Record** – This item was removed from agenda, during Approval of the Agenda.

## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Member Carnick moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Arlinghaus. The motion was carried (7-0).  
The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

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