



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
Remote Meeting via Zoom
May 4, 2026

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
Secretary Jehan-Ara Khan
Board Member Colin McAllister
Board Member Holley Murphy

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Board Member Colin McAllister (arrived at 6:10 PM)

1. One regular position available; three alternate positions available

There was no discussion.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Secretary Khan. The motion was carried (6-0).

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Draft Minutes from PARAB 04-06-2026 Regular Meeting

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to approve the draft minutes from the April 6, 2026 regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Chair Fatt. The motion was carried (6-0).

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no public comment.

E. REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB)

Chair Fatt requested that the arborist evaluate and remove a Chinese elm tree growing into the lilac bush near the playground at Soda Springs Park. Board Member Grow noted potentially dead trees in Wheeler Park and at the far west end of Soda Springs Park. Chair Fatt requested that Forestry Technician Reynard monitor both trees. Director Rossi confirmed she had noted them. Director Lopez noted a streetscape tree in front of the Manitou Brewing Company may not have survived.

1. Council Liaison

Council Liaison Storm reported that the Bill Bauers Open Space trail item would be returning to City Council the following day. The item had previously come before Council without 32 community letters and without OSAC's board letter of support. Both OSAC and PARAB are on record supporting the trail. Board members reaffirmed their support. Chair Fatt emphasized the board's preference for volunteer trail construction.

Note for the Record – Board Member McAllister joined the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Board Member Murphy asked how City Council weighs survey results against written testimonies. Council Liaison Storm noted that over 300 people responded to the survey and approximately 80 letters had been received, and that in her assessment the written letters had not overcome the survey results.

Director Rossi noted that a choke point on the trail requires an easement from an adjacent property owner, making construction inconvenient though not impossible, and that she would prefer to wait until the easement is resolved as it would affect the trail design.

Board Member Murphy asked whether a restroom facility was included in the Bill Bauers Park plans. Chair Fatt confirmed it was not, noting it would be a major capital improvement project beyond current funding. Director Rossi acknowledged it is one of the few city parks without a restroom and noted the possibility in conjunction with a future trail project.

2. Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)

a. OSAC Regular 03-23-2026 Approved Minutes

The approved minutes from the OSAC regular meeting of March 23, 2026 were included in the packet for informational purposes.

F. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. Director's Report

Director Rossi reported that two seasonal parks maintenance employees began work approximately one and a half weeks prior and are working on two pollinator garden beds along Creek Walk 4 near Manitou Avenue, with temporary fencing to protect new native plantings. Mowing and trimming have begun for the season.

Director Rossi confirmed the three-year organic lawn care contract with Clean Air Lawn Care covers Fields Park, Memorial Park, Schryver Park, and Seven Minute Spring Park. Fields Park is required under the contract as it is funded through the El Paso/Beckers Fund.

Board Member Murphy reported that the water fountain at Mabel Willie Park had been clogged with sand. Director Rossi confirmed staff addressed the issue and noted the long-term solution is to replace the sand surface with playground-grade mulch.

2. Update for Tree Advisory Committee

Director Rossi reported that 23 trees have been planted so far in 2026 across Crystal Valley Cemetery, Fields Park, the Creek Walk Trail, and Schryver Park, with a goal of 30 trees for the year. Species diversity is a key goal for 2026. Planting along Fountain Creek has also taken place for bank stabilization purposes.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mini-Grant Request / UpaDowna

Chair Fatt presented a mini-grant request from UpaDowna, a Manitou Springs-based nonprofit, for \$750 to support a three-month family-friendly hiking program from September through November 2026 on local trails.

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to approve the mini-grant request of \$750 for UpaDowna. The motion was seconded by Board Member Grow. The motion was carried (7-0).

2. Funding Request – Trees for Library Park

Director Rossi requested \$1,500 from the PARAB urban forestry budget to purchase five trees for planting along the west side of Library Park. Approximately \$10,000 is allocated in the urban forestry budget for 2026.

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to approve \$1,500 from the urban forestry budget to purchase five trees for planting on the west side of Library Park. The motion was seconded by Board Member McAllister. The motion was carried (7-0).

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Ownership of land between Dillon Mobility Hub and Fountain Creek

a. Proposed Pedestrian Bridge Location

Chair Fatt reported that she had reached out to Councilor John Shada to verify ownership of the land between the Dillon Mobility Hub and Fountain Creek. Director Rossi presented a map showing the land is owned by the Colorado State Highway Department.

Director Lopez reported that Kimley Horn has been engaged to assess the feasibility of installing a pedestrian bridge connecting the Dillon Mobility Hub area to Fields Park. A bridge currently located in Garden of the Gods has been identified as available at no cost. The northwest corner of the Dillon Parking Lot was identified as the optimal location. Feasibility and conceptual design is estimated at \$3,500, with construction estimated at \$100,000 to \$300,000.

Chair Fatt moved to recommend to City Council that the City of Manitou Springs pursue ownership of the strip of land along Fountain Creek adjacent to the Dillon Mobility Hub from the Colorado State Highway Department. The motion was seconded by Secretary Khan. The motion was carried (7-0).

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fatt moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Grow. The motion was carried (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

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