



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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting taking place at 606 Manitou
Ave., Manitou Springs, CO, 80829 (Memorial
Hall) and via Zoom
May 18, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBER OPENINGS

Chair Conley called the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair David Conley
Vice Chair Paul Arlinghaus
Committee Member Cassandra Bresnahan
Committee Member Judy Carnick
Committee Member Robin Kovats
Committee Member Andrea Sutela
Alternate Committee Member Anthony Lane

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Committee Member Anothony Maltese
Alternate Committee Member Marion Ceruzzi
Alternate Committee Member Sheryl Cline

1. No openings for regular members or alternate members.

There was no discussion.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee Member Bresnahan moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Sutela. The motion was carried (6-0).

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft minutes of OSAC 04/27/2026 Meeting

The April 27, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed and three changes were proposed:

- In Section G.5., the minutes should reflect that the Committee sought a meeting with David Walton and that emails have been exchanged trying to schedule a

meeting with the family members who will be living in the Walton home. David Walton most recently suggested a meeting in mid-May.

- In Section F, the minutes should reflect that the Committee agreed with the suggestion to place the donated bike racks at Laguna Point and the Iron Mt. Trail Head on Crystal Park Road.
- In Section G.3.(b), the minutes should reflect that Vice Chair Arlinghaus “led” a work session, correcting the verb to past tense.

Vice Chair Arlinghaus moved to approve the April 27, 2026 meeting minutes with the three changes identified above. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Kovats. The motion was carried (6-0).

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Cory Sutela of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates thanked the Committee for the vote to recommend approval of a trail in the Bill Bauers Open Space during the April 27, 2026 meeting.

E. PRESENTATION

1. Manitou Springs Garden Club – Pawnee Native Plant Pollinator Garden Update (121 Pawnee Open Space)

Greg DiFiore of the Manitou Springs Garden Club reported on the construction and planting of the new pollinator garden on Pawnee Street. The grand opening is scheduled for June 21, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There is also a planned planting effort with Wild Things on July 11, 2026.

F. REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) Update
 - a. Approved Minutes for PARAB 04-06-2026 Meeting

The PARAB minutes from April 6, 2026, were noted without any comment.

2. Director’s Comments
 - a. Wildfire Mitigation Updates

Parks and Recreation Director Gillian Rossi reported that chipping in Zone 7 is scheduled to begin on May 19, 2026 in the Crystal Hills area. Manitou Springs Fire Department (MSFD) is hiring a fire mitigation crew. No citizens have yet inquired about conducting mitigation in any of the small open space parcels.

b. Creek Walk Trail/Path Wayfinding Update

Director Rossi stated that she anticipates an update on Creek Walk wayfinding in the June meeting.

c. Trailhead Bike Rack Update

Director Rossi noted that the donated bike racks are not fully Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant but can nonetheless be installed until compliant racks can be obtained. The Parks and Recreation Department does not plan on purchasing replacement racks at this time.

G. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Conley shared that he is corresponding with David Walton and trying to schedule a meeting in mid-May with the new owner of the Walton house. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss avenues to maintain access through the Walton property for neighbors.

1. Proposal for Disc Golf Course Extension – Fields Open Space (0 Beckers Lane)

Manitou resident and local disc golf advocate, Steve Moll, described his suggestion that the six-hole disc golf course at Fields Park be extended into Fields Open Space at 0 Beckers Lane.

Director Rossi confirmed that the area is still characterized as open space and that a passive use like disc golf would be permitted. Rossi noted that Mile High Youth Corps will be pulling invasive weeds from the area in June.

Moll stated that he believed PARAB had funding to purchase the equipment for the extension. He presented a drawing showing a potential layout for the additional three holes.

Committee Member Bresnahan made a motion to approve extension of the disc golf course into the open space area adjacent to Fountain Creek. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Kovats. The motion carried (6-0).

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Trail System Maintenance

a. Tool Purchase and Tool Trailer Update (Paul, Dave)

Vice Chair Arlinghaus reported that tools have been acquired and are in storage in the tool trailer. The expense was approximately \$1,200, well under the approved budget of \$2,000. During the summer as the tools are used, it is likely that additional tools will be purchased to fill in any categories that are missing for trail maintenance.

2. Bill Bauers Open Space

a. Consider funding Environmental Impact Assessment (with a focus wildfire risk) per City Council direction.

Director Rossi reported that the City Council had instructed OSAC and the Parks and Recreation Department to move forward with an environmental assessment. Staff is gathering estimates which range from \$10,000 to \$23,000. The assessment will focus on wildfire risk, wildlife and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of the parcel.

Committee Member Sutela requested that Colorado Parks and Wildlife be asked what type of assessment it can provide which would lower the cost of the third-party assessment. She also asked whether MSFD can do the wildfire assessment. Director Rossi agreed to look into both matters.

The Committee consensus was to wait for the scope of the assessment to be clarified and to wait for a third bid before making any decision on the matter.

3. Black Canyon Open Space

a. Trail Work

i. Update on 05-09 Volunteer Trail Workday (Paul)

Vice Chair Arlinghaus reported on the trail progress made during the May 9, 2026 workday with Manitou Trail CATS and 12 volunteers.

ii. Trail Closure Interference Report (Paul, Gillian)

Vice Chair Arlinghaus reported on the individual who has been very determined to maintain the old trail that the recent trail days had worked to restore. The individual has removed debris blocking the old trail. The matter has been reported to Manitou Springs Police Department (MSPD).

iii. RMFI Project and Future Volunteer Workdays

Vice Chair Arlinghaus shared that Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) is under contract for three weeks and will start work May 20, 2026, for 10 hours a day from Wednesday through Saturday. The initial work will focus on the alternate trail alignment to avoid the sacred site. RMFI will sponsor four volunteer workdays, including two for corporate crews and two for the public.

Vice Chair Arlinghaus reported that he plans to start evening trail work sessions on June 15, June 29, July 6, July 20, August 3 and August 17, 2026. Sessions will start at 5:00 PM and run to 7:30 PM. Also, there is a Black Canyon Open Space (BCOS) cleanup day sponsored by Officer Johnson on June 20, 2026.

b. Master Plan Implementation

- i. Update from Director on Mobility Pathway and Trailhead Bridge Progress

Director Rossi reported that a very productive meeting was held between the engineers from Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs. The group is actively considering placing the access path on the Garden of the Gods side of Black Canyon Road. Further discussions between the two engineering departments are planned.

c. Vision Quest Site

- i. Update from 05-07 site visit with Mike Maio to review proposed trail alignment (Dave, Paul, Gillian)

Chair Conley and Director Rossi updated the Committee on the meetings with Mike Maio and Manny Pulido concerning the BCOS site and trail alignment. Vice Chair Arlinghaus had proposed a revised trail alignment that Rossi and Conley had reviewed on site with Mike Maio and all agreed that it should be sufficient. RMFI will commence construction of the realigned trail as part of its work project.

I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Review summer calendar for meeting dates – consider rescheduling any meetings with low attendance due to travel or summer plans

The next OSAC meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2026, followed by the July 27, 2026 meeting.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Kovats moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Arlinghaus. The motion was carried (6-0).
The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

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