



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
Remote Meeting via Zoom
June 22, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBER OPENINGS

Chair Conley called the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair David Conley
Vice Chair Paul Arlinghaus
Committee Member Cassandra Bresnahan
Committee Member Judy Carnick
Committee Member Andrea Sutela

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Committee Member Anthony Maltese
Committee Member Robin Kovats
Alternate Committee Member Marion Ceruzzi
Alternate Committee Member Sheryl Cline
Alternate Committee Member Anthony Lane

1. No openings for regular members or alternates.

There was no discussion about member openings.

B. AGENDA REVIEW

Committee Member Bresnahan moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Carnick. The motion was carried (5-0).

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft minutes of OSAC Meeting 05-18-2026 Meeting

The May 18, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed and it was proposed that the minutes be changed to reflect that the meeting was both in-person and remote via Zoom.

Committee Member Carnick moved to approve the May 18, 2026 meeting minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Bresnahan. The motion was carried (5-0).

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Cory Sutela of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates thanked the Committee for its work.

E. PRESENTATION

1. Manitou Springs Fire Department – update on fire mitigation equipment purchase, hiring of field team and outline for open space projects

Administrative Captain Randy Perkins of the Manitou Springs Fire Department updated the Committee on the hiring of a field team and purchase of fire mitigation equipment with training to begin in mid-July. Perkins anticipated that the first mitigation project would be in open space on Oak Place which backs up to the City's Public Works yard.

F. REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) Update
 - a. Approved Minutes for PARAB 05-04-2026 Meeting

The PARAB minutes from May 5, 2026 were noted with comments supporting the potential for a bridge crossing Fountain Creek from Dillon Mobility Hub to Fields Park. The City of Colorado Springs has a surplus bridge that might be acquired for the project. Coordination with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is necessary as the bridge would sit on CDOT property on the south side of the creek.

2. Director's Comments

- a. Fire Mitigation Program Update

Director Rossi reported that no citizens have inquired about conducting mitigation in any of the small open space parcels. Committee Member Carnick shared that she intends to submit to Rossi a draft letter for soliciting fire mitigation tools via donation.

- b. Wayfinding Signage Update

Director Rossi stated that the Mobility & Parking Department is creating signs which will be reviewed by OSAC during the July meeting.

c. Mile High Youth Corps Noxious Weed Mitigation Project Update

Director Rossi reported that the youth corps crew will be in the City through June 25, 2026, and has been doing weed removal on Intemann Trail at Spring Creek and elsewhere. The group kicked off their stay with a Noxious Weed Workshop on June 11, 2026.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Trail Maintenance

a. Tool Trailer Update

Vice Chair Arlinghaus reported that the tool trailer is working well.

b. Update on 06/15/2026 Volunteer Trail Workday

Vice Chair Arlinghaus shared that the first evening work session was held on June 15, 2026, with work done on the new Black Canyon trail. The next evening session is scheduled for Monday, June 29, 2026.

2. Bill Bauers Open Space

a. Summary of proposals for Environmental Impact Assessment

i. Potential for wildlife assessment by Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Director Rossi reported that the City had received three bids for the environmental assessment. She shared that the State Department of Wildlife could only do a wildlife assessment and not the other components of the requested assessment. Since Blue Mountain is an experienced contractor, the Committee was comfortable concluding that it was the lowest responsible bid.

b. Consider motion to approve funding for Environmental Impact Assessment

Committee Member Bresnahan moved to recommend acceptance of the Blue Mountain bid. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Arlinghaus. The motion was carried (5-0).

3. Black Canyon Open Space

a. Trail Work

i. Update on RMFI contract work

Vice Chair Arlinghaus presented aerial photos and described the trail construction completed by the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) under its three-week contract with the City. The work included two volunteer workdays, one corporate and one that was open to the public.

ii. Vision Quest Site – Update on proposed signage

On the signage for the Vision Quest Site, Director Rossi reported that she is waiting for the sign text to be submitted by Mike Maio, Manitou Springs Heritage Museum Board President.

b. Update on bridge and connector trail discussion via Kimley-horn and City of Colorado Springs

Director Rossi reported that the City Engineer planned a follow-up meeting with the City of Colorado Springs and that both parties were working well on the technical issues.

c. Update on trail interference by unknown person

Vice Chair Arlinghaus reported that debris is still being removed, opening the former trail alignment. Arlinghaus anticipated waiting until more of the lower trail segments have been completed and then to schedule a very thorough and extensive blocking of the old trail with significant tree and rock debris.

4. Potential Acquisition Updates

Chair Conley reported that he had not received any further response from Steve Beisel to any discussion on the potential acquisition of the Beisel parcels. Conley reported that he had met in person with Mark Rose who owns the parcel next to the Bill Bauer “pinch point” and that Mr. Rose would stay in contact to collaborate with the City on the environmental assessment and any survey work.

Chair Conley noted that Ben Walton was present and welcomed him to the meeting. Conley explained that the Committee sought a meeting to discuss avenues to maintain access through the Walton property for neighbors. Conley will email Mr. Walton to make that arrangement.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss Colorado Parks & Wildlife Non-Motorized Trails Grant

Vice Chair Arlinghaus and Director Rossi described the potential for this grant to fund construction of a Black Canyon Open Space trail, especially the “up track” that will require mechanized trail construction. The Committee supported the idea of the formation of a sub-committee of Arlinghaus and Conley to work with Rossi on the application which is due in October.

2. Trailmixers Program

Committee Member Bresnahan described her proposal for Saturday morning greeting teams to engage citizens and encourage them to try new trail segments. The

Committee was supportive of the concept and Bresnahan will submit more details at the July meeting.

3. COSA Conference – Consider OSAC Attendance

There was no discussion.

I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no discussion.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Bresnahan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Sutela. The motion was carried (5-0).
The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

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