

**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS  
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
Council Chambers – 606 Manitou  
Avenue Monday, February 24, 2020, 6:00 pm**

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

A Regular Meeting of the Manitou Springs Open Space Advisory Committee was held in Council Chambers @ 606 Manitou Avenue. Chairman Maio called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and declared a quorum present. The following Committee members attended:

**PRESENT:** Michael Maio, Chair  
Anthony “TJ” Maltese, Committee Member  
Gary Michels, Committee Member  
Shannon Solomon, Committee Member  
Sheryl Cline, Committee Member  
Andrea Sutela, Alternate Committee Member

**ABSENT:** Nancy Wilson, Vice Chair  
Amanda Taylor, Alternate Committee Member

**STAFF:** Dylan Becker, City Planner  
Christine Lowenberg, Planning Director  
Mary Ellen Montgomery, City Gardner

**GUESTS:** Judith Chandler, Council Liaison  
Melody Daugherty, Manitou Pollinator Project  
Cory Sutela, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates

**II. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY**

Alternate Committee Member Andrea Sutela was appointed secretary for this meeting only.

Mr. Becker and Planning Director Lowenberg shared that the City Administrator is currently looking to hire a part time staff member that would attend meetings and take minutes for those meetings. Planning Director Lowenberg stated there was some activity on this effort, but the position has not yet been filled.

**III. AGENDA REVIEW and PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no discussion regarding changes to the agenda and non-agenda items.

Christine Lowenberg, the new Planning Director for the City of Manitou Springs, introduced herself to the members of the OSAC.

Chairperson Maio noted that Alternate Member Sutela would be a voting member for the purpose of the meeting.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. January 27, 2020

**MOTION:** Committee Member Solomon moved to approve the January 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space Advisory Committee.

**SECOND:** Committee member Michels seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** There was no discussion regarding the motion.

**VOTE:** Motion passed 5-0. Member Cline abstained as she was not present for the January 27, 2020 Regular Meeting.

#### **V. PARKS & REC ADVISORY BOARD (PARAB) UPDATE – Chris Grow and Tim Bresnahan (5-10 mins.)**

Chris Grow and Tim Bresnahan were not present at this meeting.

Chairperson Maio stated that the city code relating to PARAB and OSAC says we should have a liaison between the two groups.

Councilor Chandler stated that Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Fortuin is the city council liaison to PARAB. Councilor Chandler stated she will ask about a liaison between the two groups.

The committee discussed making phone calls to PARAB before OSAC meetings to increase communication between the two groups if there is not a liaison attending regular meetings on behalf of each group.

Mr. Becker suggested sending a summary of the OSAC agenda to PARAB each month, and vice versa.

The committee discussed the lack of minutes available online from PARAB meetings.

Committee Member Solomon will be attending the PARAB meeting on April 6, 2020.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Guest Speaker-Melody Daugherty Manitou Pollinator Project (5 mins.)

Mrs. Daugherty distributed materials from the Pollinator Project to the committee members. She is on the Climate Task Force and the Tree Committee for the city of Manitou Springs. Mrs. Daugherty hopes to help get Manitou Springs certified as a Pollinator District as a way to improve ecosystem health for present and future generations. The process includes assessing the presence and absence of native pollinators to the area, and making some changes to improve habitat for pollinators. Mrs. Daugherty and Mary Ellen Montgomery, City Gardner, will be attending the Urban Parries Project training series this spring where they will be trained on restoration practices relating to pollinators.

The committee discussed incorporating practices that benefit pollinator populations into open space management.

Committee member Maltese stated that the Manitou POST plan outlines how OSAC makes decisions for the management of open spaces and that we don't want to introduce non-native plant species for pollinators that may be counter productive for other reasons. Councilor Chandler clarified that this work is more about maintaining native species.

Chairperson Maio asked Mrs. Daugherty if she would be willing to prepare a proposal for what OSAC could do toward these efforts. Mrs. Daugherty answered that she would work on a proposal.

## 2. Approval of Andrea Sutela as member of OSAC

**MOTION:** Committee Member Cline moved to recommend to City Council for the approval of Mrs. Sutela as a full Committee Member of the Open Space Advisory Committee.

**SECOND:** Committee member Solomon seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** The committee discussed that there was no other applicant for the position.

Chairperson Maio stated there are now two available alternate positions if anyone knows someone who might be interested.

**VOTE:** Motion passed 5-0. Member Sutela recused herself from the vote as it was her position the committee voted on.

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report Signage-N. Wilson; M. Maio and D. Becker (10 mins.)- Final approval of maps prepared by D. Becker; Final approval of Interpretive panels prepared by M. Maio; Approval of revision in "Rules and Regulations" regarding contact information.

### Trail Narratives

The committee discussed minor edits to the trail narratives produced by Chairperson Maio.

Committee member Michels pointed out the missing word "feet" from the Pawnee Avenue Trailhead narrative. Committee member Michels also noted that the original start of the Intemann Trail is off Ruxton Ave as opposed to where the Iron Springs Trailhead sign will be placed on Spring street.

**MOTION:** Committee Member Solomon moved to approve the proposed trail narratives, subject to edits to the Pawnee Avenue Trailhead to add the word "feet."

**SECOND:** Committee member Cline seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** The committee discussed adding the section of Intemann trail between Ruxton and Spring street to the trail map but decided against it at this time due to the lack of clarity on property lines in the area and the less noticeable location of the sign if placed on Ruxton Ave.

**VOTE:** Motion passed 6-0.

#### Rules and Regulations

The committee discussed edits to the Trails and Open Space Rules and Regulations that will be part of the trailhead signs. As per discussions last month, an edit was made to add “Visit Our Website At: [www.manitouspringsgov.com](http://www.manitouspringsgov.com)” to the sign.

The committee discussed changing the phrase “Please do not pick the wildflowers” to “Please do not disturb the vegetation.”

**MOTION:** Committee Member Solomon moved to approve the final draft of the Trails and Open Space Rules and Regulations, subject the edits adding “Visit Our Website At: [www.manitouspringsgov.com](http://www.manitouspringsgov.com),” and deleting “Please do not pick the wildflowers” to be replaced with “Please do not disturb the vegetation.”

**SECOND:** Committee member Cline seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** There was no further discussion on the motion.

**VOTE:** Motion passed 6-0.

#### Trail Maps

Mr. Becker presented maps showing variation in digital model transparency and hillshade transparency to be used for the trailhead signs.

The committee discussed which maps would be best for the public to interpret elevation gain and durability with aging.

The committee selected the maps with “Digital Elevation Model Transparency (50%) / Hillside Transparency (25%).”

**MOTION:** Committee Member Cline moved to approve the maps labeled as “Digital Elevation Model Transparency (50%) / Hillside Transparency (25%)” as the style and formatting for trail signs.

**SECOND:** Committee member Maltese seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** There was no further discussion on the motion.

**VOTE:** Motion passed 6-0.

The committee set a time and date to place flags marking trailhead sign locations for public works, who will install the signs. The flag marking will occur Saturday, March, 7 at 9 am. The group will meet at the Crystal Park Road Trailhead.

Mr. Becker mentioned that he is planning to photograph the flags when placed (2 per sign – one for each pole), GPS the locations, and record their angle.

Planning Director Lowenberg stated she will bring flags.

2. 2020 Budget- (D Becker-5 mins)

No update on the budget was presented.

3. Report-Land Acquisitions and Donations-G. Michels, S. Solomon and M. Maio (10 mins.)

a. Waldo Canyon Report-A. Taylor; J. Chandler

Committee member Solomon shared some information from a phone he had with a manager at Cave of the Winds named Amanda. It was her opinion that Cave of the Winds would not allow waivers for use in lower Williams Canyon.

Cory Sutela shared information from a conversation with David Deitemeyer, a planner with Colorado Springs Parks and Open Space. David said that there is no plan for access to lower Williams Canyon for safety reasons related to flooding and open mines, in addition to concerns about bat populations. He noted that decisions made by Cave of the Winds are decided by a family board. Mr. Dietemeyer offered to have an OSAC representative(s) walk through when looking into an alternative trail.

Chairman Maio stated he would like to set up a meeting to talk with Mr. Dietemeyer and asked other OSAC committee members to join him if interested. Mr. Sutela indicated he would help arrange a meeting with Dietemeyer and discuss the matter further with Chairman Maio this month.

Planning Director Lowenberg described how easements work with respect to negotiating easements with Cave of the Winds and possibly other land owners in the region of Williams and Black Canyon. She stressed the importance of bringing together all relationships, interested parties, and resources we have to negotiate challenging easements.

Mr. Becker stated he would prepare an ownership map of the area and share it with Mr. Sutela.

Planning Director Lowenberg indicated she would look into legal aspects of acquiring easements outside of the City of Manitou Springs.

b. Acquisition/Donation Properties-S. Solomon, G. Michels and M. Maio

No update on Acquisition/Donations was presented at this point in the meeting.

4. Report Trail/Open Spaces Maintenance-T.J. Maltese, S. Solomon, N. Wilson, G. Michels and M. Maio, A. Sutela

a. Trail Checklist-T.J Maltese-revisions

Committee Member Maltese is still working on researching / developing a Trail Checklist.

b. Intemann Trail-Re-route and Maintenance of Fire Road-T.J. Maltese, A. Sutela and S. Solomon and J. Chandler-MHYC; C.J. Runge meeting on 3-13

Committee Member Maltese completed a walk through of the re-route area. He noted that there is not enough time to plan for tree planning as a part of the reclamation process for the Earth Day tree planting celebration being organized by the City of Manitou Springs. He is reaching out to various groups to have a restoration plan made by the next OSAC meeting.

City Gardner Montgomery said planting some small pines along Intemann Trail near the Pawnee trailhead is a place they could plant some new trees for the Earth Day celebration. In regard to the trail reroute area, she needs to see a reclamation plan before trees are planted there to figure out what type and size of trees to plant. She added that she would be happy to help with the reclamation plan.

City Gardner Montgomery suggested that OSAC members and any interested parties should look at the wattles made of natural materials at the Sunwater Spa to get some ideas for erosion control options in reclamation areas.

The committee discussed small signs marking the area of reclamation. The committee requested four signs, two saying 'Trail Reroute' with an arrow, and two saying 'Closed for Reclamation'. Mr. Becker said he would re-submit the request for the signs to the City.

The committee discussed putting in better fences to prevent traffic through the reclamation area if needed in the future.

c. Creekwalk - No update on the Creekwalk was presented.

d. Iron Mountain-Barbed Wire Removal

The barbed wire has not yet been removed from Iron Mountain.

e. Red Mountain and Eagle Mountain Easements- M. Maio

The committee discussed the need for the renewal of these easements expiring May 2020.

Planning Director Lowenberg stated she will look into the renewal of the easements and push to consider making them permanent. She would like to discuss the possibility for further easements for trails to the top of Eagle Mountain, along Engleman Canyon and to Gog and Magog.

Mr. Becker will make an ownership map of the area where these easements are located.

**MOTION:** Committee Member Solomon moved to approve that the OSAC engage in negotiations with Manitou Springs and the Pikes Peak Railway Company for term or permanent easement relating to Red Mountain and Eagle Mountain trails and any secondary trails that may connect to Gog and Magog.

**SECOND:** Committee member Michels seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** There was no further discussion on the motion.

**VOTE:** Motion passed 6-0.

f. Beisel Trail Easement- D. Becker

Mr. Becker shared that City Attorney Jeff Parker has been in contact with the Beisel's Attorney regarding a potential exchange with the city. The Beisel's are looking for a utilities easement for their property from the City. In exchange for this utility easement, the City Attorney has mentioned that the City would like a trail easement for their property for the Intemann Trail. The City Attorney needs to know what trail alignments to consider.

The committee discussed the importance of following up on this and to include the City wants an easement through the Crystal Valley area of the Beisel property in the negotiations as well.

Cory Sutela shared that Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates can help with alignment information.

Mr. Becker stated he would prepare a map of the Beisel property showing social trails.

5. Open Space Report

a. Update-Management Plans for Iron Mountain and Black Canyon Cultural Assets-S. Solomon and M. Maio, D. Becker (5 mins.)

Council member Solomon stated he is beginning to work on the Iron Mountain management plan.

Chairman Maio and Mr. Becker will plan an organized walk through the Black Canyon.

b. Scattered Open Space Parcels-Management Plan; MSMC Section 2.19.010 (D); estimated costs; identification of scattered open space parcels

The committee discussed options for developing management plans for the scattered open space parcels. The cost of hiring consultants to prepare a management plan could carry high cost, and potentially require recurring costs for updates to the plan. The committee would like to look into management plans prepared for larger open spaces in the area to use as templates, in an effort to create and execute a management plan for these parcels at a lower cost.

Planning Director Lowenberg shared she will look at how to do this, and will look into resources. She indicated she will meet with Mr. Becker to discuss this and then report on it at the next OSAC meeting.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.