

**Manitou Springs
Open Space Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 27, 2011**

Members Present: Jim Yount (Chair), Gary Michels, Randy Hodges, Marc Straub, Tom Fears, Ben Kinsley, Keith Schoepflin; Dan Folke (Planning staff), Matt Carpenter (CC liason), Jack Benson (City Administrator).

I. Call to Order, Announcement of Member Openings and Election of Officers

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Openings remain for 3 Alternate members.

II. Approval of Minutes

2. The Minutes for the April 25, 2011 Regular Meeting were approved by consensus.

III. Agenda Review and Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

3. No public comment or changes to the agenda.

IV. New Business

4. *Red Mountain Noxious Weed Mitigation Plan Update.* Dan outlined initial options for mitigating the noxious weeds (primarily Dalmatian Toad Flax) on the Red Mountain Open Space. This will probably require spraying appropriate herbicides, but should be done before the plants produce seeds. The Mile High Youth Corps may be able to the work, but not before fall, which may be too late for this season. They have some experience, having performed some noxious weed control while building a new trail for the county at Rainbow Falls, but would still require training and supervision. Another option would be to ask the El Paso County Environmental Services Division, which typically hires special contractors to do the work. Dan will meet with them for a site visit and evaluation later this week.

5. *Iron Mountain GOCO Grant Update.* The city's application did not score high enough to receive a GOCO grant for this cycle, ranking 10th out of 18 applications with 7 recommended for funding. Dan is optimistic about reapplying for the next cycle however, as GOCO seemed impressed with the application and site visit. There may also have been some misunderstanding on the part of the GOCO committee concerning the closing date for the final parcel (they indicated it was Dec. 2012 rather than July

2012). On the application for the next cycle (August 19 deadline) Dan plans to stress that there is a sense of urgency with the closing, and will also present a clearer plans for dismantling the house, fundraising and obtaining matching funds.

V. Old Business

6. *Manitou Incline Master Plan Update.* Documentation of railway abandonment is holding up final approval of the IGA to open the incline. It was reported in the newspaper that this should not be an issue for a scenic railroad, but Colorado Springs legal staff is not so sure.

7. *Misc. News.* Jim reported that TOSC decided against placing the Great Parks Great Communities initiative on the fall 2011 ballot. Also, the plans to paint bicycle "sharrow" markings on Colorado Avenue have been shelved indefinitely. The city's plans to do the same on Manitou Avenue are also on hold.

8. Review of OSAC Initiatives:

b) *Area 1:* David Walton's plans for subdivision (including a possibly zip line attraction) are on hold due to a requirement for a geological survey.

d) *Area 3:* Jim will email committee with possible dates for a site visit on the Iron Mountain parcels.

No other updates.

VI. Other Business

9. *Financial Statement.* The May 31, 2011 OSAC financial statement was presented. The ending cash balance was \$109,437.19 .

10. *Answer General OSAC Questions.* No questions.

VII. Adjournment

Adjourned meeting at 8:40 PM.