

**Manitou Springs
Open Space Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 26, 2011**

Members Present: Jim Yount (Chair), Gary Michels (Vice Chair), Marc Straub (Secretary), Randy Hodges, Tom Fears, Keith Schoepflin, Nancy Fortuin; Michelle Anthony (Planning staff), Matt Carpenter (CC liason).

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

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Openings remain for 2 Alternate members.

II. Approval of Minutes

2. Marc forgot to prepare the minutes from August 22, 2011, so they will be submitted next month.

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

3. No changes to agenda. David Chorpenning reported on upcoming Manitou Springs Forward Focus Group sessions and circulated a signup sheet.

IV. New Business

4. *Review and Recommendation on Vacation of Right-of-Way (Otter Path) - 15 Beaver Path - Jeff Nohr, Applicant.* Owners are requesting to combine multiple properties into a single lot and to vacate an undeveloped and steep right-of-way located to the west of Otter Path. Staff supports the request, and no specific action is required by OSAC. No issues were identified by members present, and Tom moved to accept the staff recommendation (Keith seconded); motion unanimously approved.

5. *Review of Financial Statements and 2012 Budget Discussion.* Jim actually submitted the initial proposed 2012 budget to City Council earlier today. Because of Iron Mountain purchase, OSAC has essentially no discretionary funds available, but after some discussion it was decided to add a \$500 donation to the Intemann Trail Committee. The proposed budget also includes \$4,500 for lease-purchase property taxes and \$15,000 for professional services to prepare the conservation easement assuming the city gets a GOCO grant for the final Iron Mountain parcel, and for the Red Mountain noxious weed eradication. Tom suggested that OSAC ask the city attorney to determine if the city is required to pay property taxes on lease-purchases for public use. Tom also suggested that OSAC explore grants specifically for developing new trails on

the city's open space. There was also some discussion of the costs to remove the house from Iron Mountain should the city receive a GOCO grant, expected to be ~\$50,000 with two years allowed to complete the work. It was suggested to consider fund raising options to pay for this.

Tom also suggested that OSAC prepare a list of special projects that would be ready if funds and/or intern help becomes available.

V. Old Business

6. *Iron Mountain GOCO Grant Update.* Application was submitted last month, a decision is expected in December.

7. *Manitou Incline Management Plan Update.* No report.

8. Review of OSAC Initiatives:

b) *Area 1:* Tom reported on the recent El Paso County Ute Pass Regional Trail public meeting in Cascade. Several local property owners were present to voice their concerns about a proposed trail access point and parking lot in Cascade, which included crowds, parking availability, theft and vandalism. Tom spoke to them about the benefits of a local trail connection, which did seem to impress at least some of those present.

f) *Area 5:* Jim and Gary attended the September 7 Section 16 Master Planning meeting and reported that it was mostly a presentation of information, no decisions were made.

No other updates.

VI. Other Business

9. *Financial Statement.* No financial statement presented this month.

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

VII. Adjournment

Adjourned meeting at 8:10 PM.