



**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Council Chambers – 606 Manitou
Avenue January 27, 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 6:01 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
Andrea Sutela, Alternate Committee Member
Amanda Taylor, Alternate Committee Member

ABSENT: Nancy Wilson, Vice Chair
Sheryl Cline, Committee Member (excused)

STAFF: Dylan Becker, City Planner
Aaron Schultz, Project Coordinator

GUESTS: Denise Howell, City Administrator
Judith Chandler, Council Liaison
Cory Sutela, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates

1. One Alternate needed.

Chairperson Maio introduced Judith Chandler, the new Council Liaison to the Committee. He also introduced Denise Howell, City Administrator.

Chairperson Maio noted that Alternate Members Sutela and Taylor would be voting members for the purpose of the meeting.

Chairperson Maio stated that Member Graham had tendered her resignation, leaving one vacancy for a regular member and two vacancies for alternate members.

Alternate member Sutela stated her intent to pursue the regular member position.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. November 25, 2019 and January 13, 2020

Alternate member Taylor noted an error in the November 25, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION:

Alterenate Member Sutela moved to approve the November 25, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space Advisory Committee, as amended.

SECOND:

Alternate member Taylor seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed 3-0. Chairperson Maio and Members Solomon and Maltese abstained as they were not present for the November 25, 2019 Regular Meeting.

MOTION:

Alternate member Taylor moved to approve the January 13, 2020 Retreat Minutes of the Open Space Advisory Committee, as presented.

SECOND:

Member Maltese seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed 6-0.

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

Denise Howell, City Administrator, introduced herself to the Board. She noted that this would be the final meeting for member of staff Aaron Schultz, Project Coordinator.

Councilor Chandler inquired whether there was a Public Works Staff Liaison to the Committee. Ms. Howell stated that Dylan Becker, Planner 1, was responsible for information Public Works of matters pertaining to them.

Judith Chandler, Council Liaison, introduced herself to the Committee.

IV. PARKS & REC ADVISORY BOARD (PARAB) UPDATE – Chris Grow and Tim Bresnahan

There was no Parks & Rec Advisory Board Update to report.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Retreat Priorities

The Committee reviewed the Committee's 2020 Priorities from the January 13, 2020 retreat.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report Signage- N. Wilson; M. Maio, and D. Becker (10 mins.)- Consideration of contract with Brent Combs for design per staff recommendation; proposed interpretation signs; proposed maps.

The Committee discussed the approval of a contract with Brent Coombs to construct trail signage.

Dylan Becker, Planner 1, stated that provided information about the difference in durability and cost of PVC versus aluminum substrate. Mr. Becker stated that the PVC would cost \$2,600.00 whereas the aluminum would cost \$3,000.00.

Member Michels stated that north-facing signage would reduce UV-exposure. The Committee discussed sun protection.

Mr. Becker stated that the total project cost including the PVC substrate would be \$10,460.00 and the total project cost for aluminum would be \$10,840.00.

The Committee discussed durability to vandalism.

MOTION:

Member Solomon moved to approve an agreement with Brent Coombs to fabricate PVC signage as per staff recommendation for an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.

SECOND:

Member Maltese seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

There was no discussion regarding the motion.

VOTE:

Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Becker stated that the Committee could review the narratives and the trail maps.

Chairperson Maio stated that the Committee had discussed using a QR code. The Committee discussed the benefit of QR codes and whether it would be used. The Committee was in consensus that it would not be.

The Committee discussed alternatives, including whether to put the web address for the Heritage Center or OSAC web page.

The Committee discussed the length of the narratives. Member Maltese stated that he believed that the narratives were too long for the average reader, but that it would suffice. The Committee was in consensus that the length of the narratives was acceptable.

Member Michels noted an error in the Crystal Park Road narrative stating in paragraph 3, “Redstone Castel on top of iron Mountain.” The Committee was in consensus that this would need to be edited.

Chairperson Maio stated that the Committee should continue to review the narratives for edits.

Alternate member Taylor inquired whether the signs would mention that they were funded by the Committee. Member Solomon stated that there should also be an explanation of the voter approved ballot measure funding trails. The Committee was in consensus.

Mr. Becker provided nine (9) versions of seven (7) different maps showing different orientations.

The Committee was in consensus that the maps without hill-shades would be difficult for the average hiker to read and that they should be removed from consideration. Mr. Becker agreed.

The Committee discussed the different colors of the signs, including differently colored elevation bands. The Committee was in consensus that the maps with blue should be eliminated.

The Committee took a straw poll, showing support for series 4 and series 9. Mr. Becker presented larger format versions of both series. The Committee reviewed.

The Committee discussed landmarks. They were in consensus that landmarks on Private Property should not be marked, but that public landmarks should, including schools, the cemetery, and Iron Spring.

The Committee discussed including denotations of private and public property and was in consensus that it should not be.

The Committee was in consensus to move forward with series 4.

The Committee discussed North Arrow elements and was in consensus in favor of ArcGIS North 1.

The Committee discussed scale bar elements and was in consensus in favor of a double alternating scale bar with numbers on the bottom.

The Committee discussed the trail network and what should not be shown. Member Maltese noted that some social trails exist on public rights of way. Member Solomon stated that the Committee should not be condoning use of the social trail. Mr. Becker stated that he could remove all trails not open for public use.

Chairperson Maio stated that he would meet with Mr. Becker concerning the maps and invited other members to attend. Mr. Becker stated that he would send a Doodle Poll to determine a time for the signage subcommittee meeting to meet.

The Committee discussed trail access at particular points.

The Committee was in consensus in approval of the 'you are here' arrow and color.

Cory Sutela, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, stated that a signage contractor had not been paid. Mr. Becker stated that he had processed the payment and would look into the hold-up.

The Committee discussed whether Wolverton and Houdeck had been informed that the Committee had been notified that the Committee would not be pursuing their signs.

Chairperson Maio called a brief recess at 7:32 pm.

Chairperson Maio called the meeting back to order at 7:34 pm.

2. 2020 Budget

Chairperson Maio inquired whether there were any questions regarding the budget. There were none.

3. Report-Land Acquisitions and Donations

A. Waldo Canyon Report-Amanda Taylor, S. Solomon and M. Maio

Alternate member Taylor stated that the Committee would have an opportunity to work with the Forest Service connection to Black Canyon Open Space to connect to the Manitou Springs Trail

System.

Member Solomon inquired whether this proposal was produced by the Forest Service or based on public comment. Alternate member Taylor stated that it was a proposal based on public comment.

Mr. Sutela stated that this process was to facilitate the Forest Service NEPA process. He stated that he was not pleased with the Manitou access is not ideal and that the City of Manitou Springs has not been engaged.

Mr. Sutela stated that he would like to encourage the Committee / City of Manitou Springs to negotiate with Cave of the Winds for access through lower Williams Canyon.

The Committee discussed this proposal, as well as the history of access at the site and possible mechanisms for improving access. The committee also discussed the value of access and possible liability.

The Committee discussed the quarry site and reclamation process.

Mr. Sutela stated that the trail network would be extensive, but would not include access to Manitou Springs or Cascade.

Member Maltese inquired whether the former parking lot and access point on US 24 would be maintained. Mr. Sutela stated that they would not.

The Committee discussed how to ensure connectivity with other trail systems, including future trails.

Chairperson Maio stated that there is a conservation easement at the site that would prevent the expansions or altering of the old wagon road that would be necessary to connect to the Black Canyon Open Space over the quarry.

The Committee discussed the public process for Reimagine Waldo Canyon.

B. Acquisition/Donation Properties

i. Peakview

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

A. Trail Checklist

The Committee discussed the trail checklist and how to divide labor among members.

Chairperson Maio stated that some open space parcels are assessed by conservation easement holders, and that the Committee would be required to perform assessments of trails.

The Committee discussed the process for assessing trails and Chairperson Maio noted an example assessment.

Member Maltese stated that he would like to provide something that is both uniform and comprehensive. He also stated that he did not agree with a regional approach, and that he would like assessments to be done in pairs. Member Maltese stated that he would review the forms.

Member Solomon stated that informal interim assessments could be provided by members who frequent a given trail.

Mr. Sutela stated that Colorado Springs is working on a standardized trail assessment.

B. Intemann Trail-Re-route and Maintenance of Fire Road

The Committee discussed the Fire Road.

Chairperson Maio stated that the Intemann Trail could be relocated at the Fire Road on public right of way. He stated that he believed it was a gentler slope. The Committee discussed, including concerns of erosion, sustainability, and reclamation of the alternate routes.

Chairperson Maio suggested that trail experts should review the area. Member Solomon stated that it may be beneficial for other members to go together after the ice melts.

Chairperson Maio stated that conversations would include the reclamation of the Intemann Trail reroute.

Member Maltese provided an update of the reclamation process, including accessing tools and working with the Tree Planting Group on reclamation. He stated that he was spearheading the process, but that he would have more of an idea of a plan by the next meeting and would ask for support.

Councilor Chandler stated that the tree planting work group was interested in supporting the reclamation with more than just trees. Member Maltese stated that he would have to defer to the Post Plan and the City Arborist regarding the speciation of plants in the area.

Councilor Chandler stated her intent to attend a site visit with Member Maltese and the City Arborist.

C. Creekwalk

Chairperson Maio stated that the Committee must be careful with funding to ensure compliance with the law.

The Committee discussed whether water rights at the site were valuable or necessary.

The Committee entered into executive session at 8:34 pm pursuant to section 5.1.(b) of the Manitou Springs Charter for the purpose of purchase or sale of property for public purpose.

The Committee exited executive session at 8:36 pm.

D. Iron Mountain-Barbed Wire Removal

The Committee discussed barbed wire removal and did not have any additional information.

Member Solomon stated that he would need to return to see if the piles of barbed wire had been removed.

E. Red Mountain Summit Trail

The Committee discussed the scree on Red Mountain Trail.

Member Solomon stated that he would inquire with El Paso County Search and Rescue or the Fire Department regarding emergency calls to that location. The Committee could not recall an instance of a rescue.

The Committee was in consensus that it was not a priority and whether signage could help remedy the situation, including a standard icon for scree or falling rock. Mr. Becker stated that he would research options.

5. Open Space Report

A. Update-Management Plans for Iron Mountain and Black Canyon Cultural Assets
Member Solomon stated that it was moving forward.

B. Scattered Open Space Parcels-Management Plan
The Committee discussed properties designated as open space that do not have a management plan.

Member Solomon inquired about whether a land management plan would be required for each site. Mr. Becker stated that each site would require an evaluation, but that the evaluations would be included in a single management plan.

Mr. Becker stated that Palmer Land Trust was not interested as they do not have conservation easements on the property.

The Committee discussed how to involve a consultant to help create the plans.

Member Solomon stated his preference for hiring a consultant to create the plan, with the Committee responsible for updates.

The Committee discussed the budget available to perform the assessment and create the plan.

The Committee discussed the requirement for management plans. Chairperson Maio stated that it is required by ordinance.

The Committee discussed the particulars of given sites.

The Committee discussed reviewing the Ordinance to determine whether site size triggers land management plan ordinance or whether there could be a size exemption. The Committee also discussed whether the ordinance also specified the amount of time before an update would be required.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business before the Committee, Chairperson Maio adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by Aaron Schultz, Project Coordinator