

## Visit Manitou Springs

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2024

**Present:** April Hall, Ted Johnston, Farley McDonough, Anthony Mogck, Lisa Quintana, Annie Schmitt, Angela Wilks, Natalie Johnson

**Absent:** Kat Kilner

**Guests:** Chief Otto

**Staff:** Jenna Gallas, Leslie Lewis, Monica Rozelle

A regular meeting of the Visit Manitou Springs Board of Directors was held Tuesday, September 17, 2024, in the upstairs center room of Venue 515. The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by President Farley McDonough.

#### **Community Updates:**

##### **A. Police Department Update:**

Chief Otto reported that the police department has been busy. There have been some serious crimes that they are still working on. The Midnight shift has made a lot of DUI (both drinking and drugs) arrests. He discussed drug use and arrests on the Creek Walk path. They will be doing a sports ball giveaway at the Elementary School soon. Anthony Mogck asked about the person who is playing bagpipes in the downtown area.

Farley asked questions about what the police could do regarding drug use at a specific property. It was suggested she call the police when something is happening at that property. The officers, when not on a call are spending more time in that part of Manitou Springs. The Chief will gather more information and then make a request for the Metro Unit to assist.

Angela Wilks mentioned concerns about someone "camping" near the spa building. Tony Mogck will work with the HOA to get that area locked. The Chief asked that the Winery call the Police if they see the person there.

There was discussion of the skateboards and one-wheels. They should not be on sidewalks or in traffic. They should be riding in the bike lane.

##### **B. URA Update**

Paragon has submitted a concept plan to the Planning Department for 2 three story apartment buildings with approximately 79 units in total, located at La Fon's previous location. The Planning Department voted 4-3 in favor of the apartments, but Paragon must get approval for a height variance to move forward. The intention is to achieve attainable housing (they could not reach the level of "affordable housing")

##### **C. City Update:**

The Budget Retreat is coming up.

Natalie is working with a small group that has been working on a special taxing district plan (DDA) that will determine a path for gateway-to-gateway maintenance to present to City Council.

The first reading on the police scanners for speeding is coming before Council. The roads need to be determined but some being discussed are Crystal Park Rd and Beckers Lane. The speeders will automatically be mailed a ticket. These roads were chosen due to complaints from residents. Additional roads will be discussed at the Council meeting.

There's no update on when the Dillon parking lot will be completed. The city must work with Mountain Metro to change the routes. The hope is beginning use by mid-June/early-July next year, with possible port-a-potties set up.

The electric trams were returned to the company, as they were still under warranty, because of the continuous breakdowns.

Leslie brought up concerns about the Cliff Road construction and how they are expecting buses and RVs to turn into Cave of the Winds and loop around their driveway.

Annie brought up the concern that the electric parking signs have not been working correctly and Wichita hasn't been showing up at all – Natalie will investigate this.

#### **D. Event Update**

Gov Conference is next week in Crested Butte. The Chamber is putting together a basket for the CTLJ silent auction.

Coffin Race T-shirts will go on sale this week. Twin Bears will print white shirts. Both volunteers and the public will have the option to tie-dye these. The colored shirts will be printed by Norwest Graphics. Sponsorships for the Coffin Races are at \$30,000 and there are still some sponsorships available. The parade entry is now set at \$25 to start ensuring people will show up like they say they will. Everything is found on Eventeny. 24 teams are currently signed up for racing, and that does not include the sponsors. We are also working with the MAC to create a "How to Build Your Coffin" workshop. The VIP tickets are almost sold out!

Carnivale update: Pardi Gras will take place at City Hall on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> and tickets are \$25. Carnivale parade is on March 1<sup>st</sup> with CarniBall taking place the week prior. There's fundraising every Tuesday evening at the Armadillo Ranch with Bingo.

Congratulations to Leslie and Annie for winning the 2024 COS Tourism Awards, and to Monica for being nominated!

#### **E. CRANE Update**

The music event that was to take place at La Fon fell through due to some miscommunication between the Planning Department and organizers. They will try again for next Spring.

CRANE is partnering with the URA, PARAB, and OSAC for art projects along the Creek Walk on the Eastern side of town. ManitouMade is working on transitioning over to the MAC. The lightbulb sculpture (Watts UP) will be donated to the city in honor of Joel Grotsinger will take place on October 10<sup>th</sup>. This will begin at the Town Clock at 6pm with Cookies with CRANE and head to Armadillo Ranch for appetizers and live music.

On October 4<sup>th</sup> the fonts for Iron Spring will be chosen and announced after the Fundraising Train for the Mineral Springs.

#### **Action Items:**

#### **F. Approval for August Meeting Minutes**

A motioned for approval of the August Meeting Minutes was made by April and seconded by Tony. The motion was approved.

## **G. Approval of Financial Statements**

Revenue is coming in from the BID. They paid labor, the portion of the PPRAA membership, and part of the admin expenses for the year.

The building expense is high, but Leslie realized the new sign was placed in that line item. The insurance came if for the sign two years ago and was put into the general fund.

The Heritage Center was accidentally double paid for Brew Fest from ticket sales that came in through Eventeny. This will be paid back and next year the Heritage Center will have its own Stripe account.

Finances are in good shape. More is being put into marketing with digital ads and working with Pikes Peak Region Attractions Association.

Leslie will provide Marketing analytic numbers next month. We are talking with Pikes Peak Region Attractions about a Sasquatch family video in Manitou Springs when the weather cools off.

Ted made a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. Annie seconded the motion, and it was approved.

## **H. Approval of New and Renewing Members**

Leslie reported Echo Frequency Studio had come in with an application for membership. For renewing members, we received applications from The Avenue, Darpino Studio Gallery, Soulshine Yoga Studio, and Theo's Toys. Tony reported that Theo's Toys had celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> year in business anniversary. Annie made a motion to approve the new and renewing member applications. Ted seconded the motion, and it was approved.

## **I. Holiday Campaign**

We are talking with CRANE to bring muralist in to paint window decorations for the holidays. CRANE will buy the paint and arrange for artist. The businesses would pay the artist, and the Chamber would provide prizes for the contest.

The city is paying the invoice for Timberline for the holiday lighting in Manitou Springs. The tree lighting will be held on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The Cog is talking about having a holiday celebration at their depot this year.

## **J. Destination Blueprint**

The meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> will be 5 to 8 pm at the Cliff House, the meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> will be 9 am to 1 pm at the Manitou Art Center. This is the program we are working with the Colorado Tourism Office on for strategic planning around "Championing the Value of Tourism" and "Advancing off season tourism".

## **K. Text Messaging**

The Chamber did send a test message out through the text messaging system. Some board members received the first message. Leslie will send another message to see if more members receive it.

## **L. 2025 Goals**

We need to determine what the 2025 goals will be for the City Council presentation. We would like to determine some goals from Destination Blueprint. The signage downtown should be redone as one of the goals. The Board will also focus on the transition of leadership as well. Leslie will send both Leslie's job description as well as her job description prior to the retreat. In the retreat, the board will talk about the presentation for City Council in the first part of the retreat and the positions in the second part of the retreat. Depending on the process, Leslie will stay through January to work with the new director and then move to part-time/contract to help with Destination Blueprint through that process (June) and with the audit.

Having no additional business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.