

Visit Manitou Springs

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024

Present: April Hall, Ted Johnston, Farley McDonough, Anthony Mogck, Lisa Quintana, Annie Schmitt, Denise Howell

Absent: Kat Kilner, Angela Wilks

Guests: Commander Corey Sevene

Staff: Jenna Gallas, Leslie Lewis, Monica Rozelle

A regular meeting of the Visit Manitou Springs Board of Directors was held Thursday, November 21, 2024 in the upstairs conference of Venue 515. The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. by President Farley McDonough

Community Updates:

A. Police Department Update

Commander Sevene reported a new officer started this morning. The department is not currently fully staffed. A new fingerprint reader will be set up before the first week of December. The homeless population is down in town, but Officer Johnson will have trespass letters to hand out because the ones still in the area hang out at the laundromat and under the bridge at the Wichita Parking Lot. The death of the person who was found in Fountain Creek by Subway is no longer being investigated, as no foul play was found.

B. City Update

The City is working on the budget and year end wrap-ups. The backflow ordinance will hopefully be completed by the next meeting. The letters regarding lead pipes were federally mandated to go out to everyone. The city has additional information on their website. Responsibilities for the lines were discussed.

C. CRANE

ManiZoo, which had been vandalized, will soon be repaired.

Manitou Made is still set to be handed off to the MAC by the end of the year.

The Creek Walk Mural Project has two potential spots for new murals – the pool and Park Row Lodge. The pool is interested in the mural, Park Row has not yet responded. The pool mural would be funded by a MACH grant if they receive it, and the Park Row one would be paid for by CRANE.

There's a potential location for the 5th sculpture in the URA – at the Dillon parking lot.

People's Choice (\$1,000) and Excellence in Art (\$2500) will be awarded in December.

MACH grants open soon.

The wooden screen shielding the dumpsters at the Chamber will soon have the "pizza ducks" on it, a few will also be on the front of the building.

D. Special Events

The 30th Emma Crawford Coffin Races budget shows a positive this year of \$6,579.41. There are still a few shirts and tote bags for sale at the Chamber.

Pardi Gras was well attended with 65 people, and they received \$1,700 in sponsorships.

The theme for 2025 Carnival is "Cirque du Manitou". A MACH grant will be written to help offset the cost of the parade.

Lots of Holiday Happenings taking place this year! Make sure to sign up for holiday decorating, as the winning businesses will receive ACE gift cards again this year.

Wine Fest and Brew Fest tickets were put up for a special sale from Friday, November 29th through Monday, December 2nd.

The Great Fruitcake Toss is on Saturday, January 25th. Sponsorship opportunities are now available.

There's a concern that Little London Winds will no longer be able to play for the Summer Concert Series due to new stipulations on parking behind the pavilion in Soda Springs Park.

Action Items

E. Approval of Board Retreat Minutes

April Hall made a motion to approve the October Board Meeting minutes as presented. Annie Schmitt seconded the motion, and it was approved.

F. Approval of October Financial Statement

April reported there is still money in the bank! Annie made a motion to approve the October Financial statement as presented. Lisa Quintana seconded the motion, and it was approved.

G. Approval of Renewing Membership Applications

The renewing members list was reviewed. April made a motion for approval of the members on the list. The motion was seconded by Ted Johnston and approved by the board.

Old Business

H. Destination Blueprint Update

A report will be completed by Beth Wright and should arrive after Thanksgiving. The Resident Survey responses will be sent to Council and to the Pikes Peak Bulletin. Should the survey remain up so that we may continue to see responses, even though the time has passed? Several hundred residents did fill out the survey. Once the report is finalized, we must decide what to do with the 100 hours that Beth will be working with us, thanks to the grant.

I. Budget Presentation to Council Update –

The presentation went well because of how well organized and good at continuous communication the Chamber has been. The council likes the changes being made to the Chamber building and the surrounding area. Questions were brought up regarding why the name changed to Visit Manitou Springs.

In the full budget discussion, concerns were brought up because Colorado Springs passed the recreational marijuana law, which could potentially impact how much Manitou Springs receives, upwards of a million dollars, and that will affect the City's budget.

New Business

J. Proposed membership rate increase

The membership investment fee has not been increased for several years. After discussion, April motioned to pass a 10% increase across the board, rounding up to the nearest \$5. The rate increase was seconded by Lisa and approved unanimously.

K. Board Vacancies

The following board members have terms that are ending: Tony Mogck, Lisa, and Kat Kilner. If anyone has suggestions for who would be a good fit for our Board next year, please email Leslie. Current recommendations are Katie Snyder from The Loft, Greg Cobble from E-Bikes Tours and Rentals, and Jen Barrow from Flowers...and The Moon.

L. Donation Requests

The Board has received a donation request from Mercy at Miramont. After discussion, the board approved sending \$250. A request from Manitou Springs Volunteer Fire Department had been received prior to the Turkey Shoot, and through email approval \$250 was also given to them.

April made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:48 a.m. The motion was seconded by Annie and did pass. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel.

The November 21 regular meeting of the Board of Directors resumed at 10:15 a.m.

April made the motion to approve the position description for the Executive Director and to send it to Beth Wright for final touches before posting. Annie seconded the motion and it was approved. The Board would like to see it posted the week of November 25 with applications accepted until December 23. Resumes will be sent to the search committee as they come in and interviews will begin prior to the closing date.

Year-end bonuses were awarded to staff with Leslie's discretion for the weekend staff.

Having no additional business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.