**Friends of Monument Preserve**

**P.O. Box 634**

**Monument, CO 80132-1216**

**Board Meeting**

**November 18, 2014**

**I. Call to Order and Attendance:** The Board meeting of the FOMP began at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Center Classroom. Members present were Jon Nordby, president; Chris Tirpak, vice president; and Marianne LaRivee, secretary; as well as Brian Mullen and Hermann Spielkamp, members at large. Nancy Spielkamp was also in attendance. Phil Comer and Mary Mourar represented the Rampart East Group of the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC).

**II. Issues:**

**A. Financial Review:** Jon Nordby reported that we have $5,745 in our account. Expenses this year were primarily in support of the major cleanup efforts along Mt Herman Road after the area was closed to shooting (trash bags and port-a-pots.) We will need to replace worn out loppers next spring.

**B. Future Meetings:** Chris Tirpak reminded us that there will be no December meeting, but 2015 meetings will take place on 13 Jan, 10 Feb, 10 Mar (elections), and 14 Apr.

**C. Volunteer Hours:** Jon Nordby reported 2200 hours of volunteer service *without* the trash pickup weekends. Highlights included: (1) major cleanup efforts once Mt Herman Rd was closed to recreational shooting: 12 July, 15 July, the 10 Aug Devin Seifert Memorial Mt Herman Road Cleanup, Jon Nordby’s Corporate day; (2) FCA day with Chris Tirpak, Tim Watkins’ student volunteers; (3) Bluebird houses; (4) Boy Scout camp renovation.

**D. Trail Work Calendar:** Chris will post the spring 2015 work calendar on the web site: 12 May, 9 Jun, 14 Jul, 11 Aug, and 15 Sep. Future efforts will include: swamp entrance, helipad, yucca meadow, horse jump meadow, and the ridgeline.

**E. Road Closure:** Mt Herman Road is closed from 3 Nov 14 to 2 Jan 15 for seven miles of restoration. The notification prevents any use on or within 100 feet of the road.

**F. CMC Rampart East Project:** Phil Comer, co-chair of the CMC Rampart East Wildlands Project, and Mary Mourar attended to solicit inputs and feedback for a long-range use plan for the Front Range. Specifically, a 2017 Pike National Plan is in the works and the CMC is hoping for agreements among hikers, bikers, and motorized vehicle users. The CMC is considering motorized use west of Rampart Range Road, but non-motorized use on the east side. They had originally proposed the land west of Perry Park as a wilderness area. FOMP members stressed that most of our members do not support the “wilderness” designation because mountain biking and off-leash dogs would be precluded. (When CMC’s Tom Mowle attended a FOMP meeting on 13 Nov 2012, Diane Strohm had suggested that a limited use designation, one which precluded motorcycles and four-wheelers--louder and more destructive--but allowed mountain bikes, was a possible compromise.) This proposal was reiterated to Phil Comer and Mary Mourar. However, Chris Tirpak expressed doubt that the USFS would be willing to craft such a compromise, and was distrustful that the USFS would consider local users’ preferences. Phil Comer stated that the CMC was considering bicycle use as far north as Dakan Road, FR 563. In any event, he said it was unlikely that a “wilderness” designation would be approved for any portions of the Pike National Forest. He reiterated that the CMC simply wanted to get an idea of local usage and preferences.

Both Phil and Mary were also apparently unaware that Tom Mowle promised the Palmer Lake Town Council that his trail project at the reservoirs would be made family friendly and accommodate hikers as well as mountain bikes. Upon further discussion they were also unaware of the PLTC request to Tom Mowle and the CMC in writing (which FOMP was cc’d on) to rectify parts of the project that effectively preclude mountain biking. CMC indicated that they were unlikely to comply with the request by PLTC but would review the letter and get back to the FOMP BOD with a decision after the holidays.

**III. Adjournment**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.