**Friends of Monument Preserve**

**P.O. Box 634**

**Monument, CO 80132-1216**

**Board Meeting**

**October 11, 2017**

**I. Call to Order and Attendance:** The Board meeting of the FOMP began at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Center Classroom. Members present were Bill Normile, president; Bill Benson, vice president; and Marianne LaRivee, secretary; as well as Chris Tirpak, Jon Nordby and Diane Bandle, members at large; Oscar Martinez, Judy Benson, Larry Bryant, Jeff Shapiro, Matt Davis, Steve and Linda Pate, Jason Sayers, Ginger Chase, Travis Jones, and his dog, Loki were also in attendance.

**II. Issues:**

**A. USFS Update:** Oscar Martinez, USFS District Ranger, reported that he will soon have a Law Enforcement officer, Colleen Burgenston, for the long-vacant position. Regarding the illegal homeless camps, Oscar said that since he does not have the resources, FOMP members may use boulders, logs, or slash to block off the areas used by the campers.

**B. Trail Etiquette:** We have not yet posted trail etiquette signs at the trailhead, but will discuss this next time. (In May, we agreed that we should put notices asking pet owners to police manure near the trailhead, and if they collect it along the trails, to pack it out. The trail etiquette sign should state basic rules such yielding the right of way to those going uphill, and that bikers should yield to all other users.)

**C. Tim Watkins Trail Day:** This special work day on Saturday, October 7th in memory of Tim Watkins was a true success: 55 people worked in 6 groups to work on a new trail named for Tim. Chris, Jon, Brian, and Bill did a fine job planning, organizing, and overseeing; they used a number of existing features and older trail sections. Part 1 is complete and Part 2 is roughed in. Pictures from the event are now on the website. Volunteers from other groups such as Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates joined in the effort. One sign provided by Joe Helvoigt was placed at the western end. Once we have completed the trail, we will install more signs to clarify the route. Ginger Chase (Tim’s wife) said that she had ridden the trail and thinks it is a wonderful tribute to her late husband.

**D. Treasury:** We received increased funds year on behalf of Tim Watkins, so should use the money wisely. Chris Tirpak reported that we now have $11,476. All members agreed we should spend money on new tools, such as Rogue (sp?) which are more efficient than the old McCleods. We also need a storage shed for the tools. Judy Benson mentioned that the Medicine Wheel group had a trailer for their tools, but Jon Nordby pointed out that trailers can become difficult to maintain, license, etc.

**E. Trail Work Summary:** Summer 2017 was a banner year for trail work--the first season in a while that we weren’t rained out numerous times. Chris did a great job as Trail Boss, and reported that we put in 861 hours over the summer.

**F. Membership/Publicity**: Bill Normile reported that membership has increased due to increased publicity, including the articles in *Our Community News*, the 2017 Newsletter, and the business cards posted on the board. Chris added that Brian Mullin has increased the reach through Facebook and Nextdoor. We all agreed that advanced notice of trail nights is beneficial. Brian should continue to send out a notice one week prior, then again a day or two before, giving everyone more time to work it into their schedules.

**G. Partnerships**: We are willing to work with other trail entities such as Medicine Wheel, Trails and Open Space Coalition, Friends of the Peak, etc. Most FOMP members prefer helping in terms of volunteer hours instead of financial assistance.

**H. Maps:** We also agreed that we should print a map, at least for internal use by FOMP and to post at the trailhead. Those interested should work on a map with suggested trail names and submit it to the membership for a vote.

**I. Nevins Land Exchange**: This should occur on October 25th, and is due largely to Chris’s efforts over the years. We are all grateful to his dedication.

**J. Change Meeting/Trail Night Back to Tuesday:** Chris reported that a number of FOMP volunteers have said they could attend more work sessions and/or meetings if we move back to Tuesdays. All were in favor, so we will start next month.

**III. Adjournment**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.