**Friends of Monument Preserve**

**P.O. Box 634**

**Monument, CO 80132-1216**

**Board Meeting**

**January 9, 2018**

**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; Diane Strohm, treasurer, Brian Mullen, communications director, and Marianne LaRivee, secretary; as well as Chris Tirpak, Jon Nordby, Diane Bandle, and Hermann Spielkamp, members at large. Judy Benson, Nancy Spielkamp, Jeff Shapiro, Heidi McClure, Jerry Woerdeman, David and Lesa Weitz, Ted Haller, Bruce Hoover, Al Anderson, and Drew Wacher were also in attendance.

**II. Issues:**

**A. USFS Update:** Colleen Burgenston, Recreation Planner, and Jennifer DeWoody, NEPA Planner, represented USFS. Colleen explained that we need a USFS/FOMP Operating Agreement (OA) in place in order for FOMP members to continue trail work and other activities in the Monument Preserve. The OA should contain a mission statement and a vision statement such as a 5-year plan. (Chris Tirpak stated that FOMP members previously sent several proposed Operating Agreements to USFS officials but nothing was signed.) The OA should list the activities other than trail work that FOMP participates in, such as seedling release, burn area recovery, planting and watering USFS seedlings, Scout projects, 4H Birdhouse projects, trash removal, graffiti removal, and fuel reduction. On another topic, members asked Colleen about reporting dangerous and illegal shooting, and she explained that since there is no USFS Law Enforcement official in place (John Pfifer has been selected but has not yet completed his training) citizens should record the activity and report to local and state representatives. She said she would try to send a suggested list of contacts for reporting dangerous shooting.

**B. Treasury:** Diane Strohm reported we have over $11K in the bank, primarily due this year to donations in memory of Tim Watkins. Chris Tirpak presented another check from the Tattered Cover Bookstore in Monument representing proceeds from the sale of Tim’s favorite book, The River Why, by David Duncan.

**C. Nevins Land Exchange**: finally occurred on October 25th, transferring land from Red Rocks Ranch to the Pike National Forest. Trail 715a now allows hikers and bikers access all the way around Mt Herman.

**D. Trails and Open Space Coalition:** Susan Davies, head of TOSC, explained that there are about 20 “Friends” groups in the Pikes Peak region, all focused on particular areas. TOSC attempts to serve as an overarching organization providing advice, volunteers, volunteer training, stewardship efforts, strategic planning, and advocate efforts. Information is at 2009OpenSpace.org. Susan asked FOMP members to consider joining TOSC to provide liaison between the groups. (Note: On Wed, 10 Jan, Diane Strohm recommended that FOMP itself become a member of TOSC. Bill Normile recommended that we also pay to send a FOMP member for Trail Leader training. All were in favor.)

**E. Tools:** Bill Benson has researched tool sourcing and found a company providing quality tools for a fair price. All agreed that Bill Normile, Bill Benson, and Jon Nordby should meet to determine what we should purchase.

**F. Insurance:** Bill Normile stated that it appears FOMP efforts can fall under the protection of USFS once we get the Operating Agreement in place.

**G. Elections:** Diane Strohm announced she is moving to Montana, so we need a volunteer to replace her as Treasurer. Chris Tirpack reminded us that March is the month for elections, membership renewals, and donations. Bill Normile suggested that people attending should consider volunteering for a position.

**H. Law Enforcement Options:** David Weitz, who lives in Red Rocks Ranch adjacent to the Pike National Forest introduced the recent 5280 Magazine featuring an article about the Marshall program, an organization which trains volunteers in crowd control, keeping the peace, emergency response, and other community needs. He suggested that residents consider forming a local branch to help police the Monument Preserve and the surrounding trail system within Pike National Forest. He volunteered to stay after the meeting to discuss options. Colleen Burgenston reminded us that our USFS district comprises 1.1 million acres, so even when John Pfifer assumes the LE position, he will not be able to respond to all areas and problems quickly.

**I. Recognition:** Bill Normile presented plaques to Chris and Jon in recognition of their many years of service with FOMP. Chris is moving to Australia next month, but Jon will fortunately remain in the area (and on the team.)

**III. Adjournment**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.