**Friends of Monument Preserve**

**P.O. Box 634**

**Monument, CO 80132-1216**

**Board and Members Meeting**

**March 13, 2018**

**I. Call to Order and Attendance:** The Board meeting of the FOMP began at 7:10 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Fire Station. (The PL Town Hall was in use for firefighter training.) Members present were Bill Normile, president; Bill Benson, vice president; Diane Strohm, treasurer; Brian Mullin, communications director; and Marianne LaRivee, secretary; as well as Jon Nordby, and Diane Bandle, members at large. Judy Benson, Kim Nordby, Scott VanWyhe, Randy Phillips, and Larry Bryant were also in attendance.

**II. Issues:**

**A. FOMP/USFS Partnership:** Bill Normile updated the members about interactions between FOMP and USFS. Bill N. and Bill Benson are frustrated over the seeming lack of cooperation on the part of Colleen Burgmanis, USFS Outdoor Recreation Planner. They believe she has requested overly detailed information for the MOU between FOMP and USFS. Bill N. also described a discussion he had with another USFS official from a different district, Scott Dollus, who suggested that instead of a detailed MOU, we should pursue a “Volunteer Agreement,” which is far less formal and meticulous. In fact, Bill read a letter he emailed to Oscar Martinez asking whether USFS would be willing to settle for such an agreement. Oscar agreed to meet Bill sometime in the next couple of weeks to discuss.

Diane Strohm was skeptical about the willingness of USFS to allow such an agreement to take the place of an MOU but agreed that it would certainly be less work for both parties. Diane also stated that she believed that we could satisfy Colleen’s requests without too much difficulty if we divided it up among the board members. Scott VanWhye suggested that we farm out some of the information requested to the third-party groups themselves since the projects are on their behalf.

Bill N. then read a letter he proposed to send to Colleen threatening to cancel all summer projects based on the lack of progress on the MOU. Members were unwilling to “throw in the towel” just yet, since we have a number of worthwhile trail projects planned, along with the scout project and bluebird houses with 4H. We are passionate about our husbandry of the forest and disinclined to cancel the season. We agreed to wait until the meeting between Bill and Oscar before taking such a drastic step.

**B. Squatter Encampment**: Jon Pfeiffer, USFS Law Enforcement, sent Bill a message stating that most of the encampment has been destroyed and scattered, and that he will return with a couple of the HotShots to destroy the fire pit.

**C. Elections:** Elections were dispatched swiftly, with Scott VanWyhe replacing Diane Strohm as Treasurer, and all other officers maintaining their seats.

**D. Permanent Meeting Location:** Larry Bryant suggested using the Monument Fire House on Hwy 105; Marianne LaRivee will contact the Fire Chief to check on that possibility.

**III. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.