

## **Manitou pool parking sparks discussion at Council**

**By Anthony Welch**

A familiar topic came up as City Administrator Jack Benson gave his report Tuesday night at the Manitou City Council's regular meeting.

Make that two familiar topics - the Manitou Pool and the issue of parking.

Benson told Council of his continued discussions with Pool Director Roy Chaney.

Regarding the proposed weight room addition, Benson said the contractor for the project is currently sitting on \$40,000 of the City's money, which was a down payment.

One issue Benson and Chaney discussed was parking at the pool. Was there enough with the increased services the pool is hoping to bring with the new weight room? Benson said they thought parking was sufficient.

Councilman Michael Gerbig mentioned that most of the parking spaces were full during the evening hours. He questioned whether there truly are enough spaces to handle the expected pool patrons.

"I'm not going to ask citizens of Manitou to come to a pool and not find a place to park," he said.

Gerbig said while he's had conversations with Chaney as well, he still wants to see a solid business plan.

"I'd like to know how we're going to accommodate people," he said. "Do we have a way to make it work? If this is how we're going to look at it, maybe I'll be quiet."

Benson said he wasn't sure what more Gerbig wanted, after having provided the information on the pool. Benson asked Council what they'd like to see out of his conversations with Chaney. Mayor Marc Snyder mentioned finding a way to maximize parking at the pool. He said perhaps the grass islands with trees could be done away with.

"I think we could add 15 spaces to that lot without any major cost incurred," he said.

The City may need to find alternate spaces for pool patrons to park, Benson said. Snyder added that he saw 55 cars in the lot Sunday during the Commonwheel Arts Fest. The lot is a public lot, and therefore is subject to tourists parking there and walking into downtown Manitou.

## **Manitou Chair Project**

Council approved a request from Sean O'Meallie to change the hours of street closure for The Manitou Chair Project on Oct. 9. Originally approved for 5 a.m. to 9 a.m., the hours were changed to 6 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The reason for the change was better lighting during those hours for the project, which includes photographing a row of empty chairs arranged in a single line down the middle of Manitou Avenue cleared of all vehicles and people.

Snyder expressed concern that the change could affect downtown businesses. O'Meallie said most businesses he spoke with didn't open until 11 a.m. Business owners who do open earlier have no objections to O'Meallie's request, he said.

"My main concern is somebody may want to eat at one of our fine restaurants, and I want them to be able to get there," Snyder said.

O'Meallie assured Council that people will still be able to make their way into Manitou. He said the project will include a schedule of events, including entertainment.

## **In other business, Council...**

- Heard from resident Gary Smith, who announced he's running for one of the Council at-large seats.
- Appointed Councilwoman Coreen Toll to the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department Advisory Board.
- Appointed Toll as an alternate to Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments.
- Approved an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances establishing a watershed district for the protection of Manitou Springs' historic mineral springs.
- Approved an ordinance adopting and enacting the 2011 edition of the Pikes Peak Regional Building Code.

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