

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
May 13, 2024**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Ayer, Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Brownknight, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Van Stone and Mr. York.

Minutes:

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the minutes as written. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Service Superintendent James: April 2024 Monthly Report/Spending Request: Repairs Loader/Backhoe \$9,081.81. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the spending request. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

*From Building Official Holloway: March 2024 Monthly Report

*From Tax Administrator: April 2024 Monthly Report. Mr. Barlow said it was a good month due to some large extension payments.

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Syd Sabo, 3857 Indianview Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. He noticed that the agenda includes a discussion on “Mariemont Connector Library to Miami Plans/Bid”. This has all the appearances that everything has been decided and approved by Council and it is a done deal. Those of us objected to the destruction of Trolley Line Park via the petition presented last summer and in the fall are being ignored. When are the two meetings on the Miami Intersection and Trolley Line Park going to happen? Or are the meetings no longer deemed necessary by Council. The decision on Trolley Park needs to be discussed and alternatives be allowed to be presented. The outcome must be decided by those who live there. We do not want an ugly black scar across our park. Don’t forget that this is a residential neighborhood not a trail in the country. He requested any discussion on plans/bids be put on hold until the residents have an opportunity for an open discussion.

Ms. Tricia Williams, 3808 Beech Street, was granted permission to address Council. She is representing a number of residents surrounding Patriot’s Park regarding the urgent need for repaving lanes around the park. The current condition of the lanes surrounding Patriots Park includes significant potholes and loose gravel which poses a safety hazard to our community. The lanes have not been repaved for over 25 years which raises concerns about safety and liability. She urged Council to prioritize the repaving of Patriots Park lanes in 2024 and asked for a confirmed date when this maintenance work will be completed. She requested a comprehensive report detailing all completed repaving projects by street name since 2000.

Ms. Williams also asked for clarity on ordinance signage requirements regarding resident posting of political and non-political signs in yards. With the upcoming election she specifically wants addressed the classification of land between the road and the sidewalk. She asked Council to define where the patch of land between the Village road and the sidewalk is classified as private or public property. Regardless of the sign classification, are residents permitted to post political or non-political signage on the patch of land? If so, she would like defined the allowable size and location requirements. The Mariemont code of ordinances references a “street lot line”. She asked for a clear definition for this term. Lastly, she asked if the Village has any plans to update its sign ordinance. If affirmative, please provide details on the proposed changes.

Mayor Brown said the Village does have fairly clearly defined ordinances regarding signage and political signs. He said the Village will put out a refresher message on the website and the email distribution list reminding residents of personal property and where signs can and cannot be placed. The strip of land that Ms. Williams refers to is termed the “Village Right-of-Way”. It is Village property; however, most homeowners are required to mow grass, etc. in front of their property. Political signs are not permitted there. He will work with Solicitor McTigue to provide a narrative that will be shared with the community and also the Town Crier. He provided Ms. Williams with the documentation of the streets paved the past 20 years.

Mr. Ken Katkin, 3812 Beech Street, was granted permission to address Council. He echoed the urgent need for repaving the Patriots Park Lane.

Mr. Jim Gray, 3820 Beech Street, was granted permission to address Council. He said walking his dog is difficult on Patriots Park Lane. There are many children playing which causes safety concerns.

Mr. Scott Ruotolo, 4314 Grove Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. He presented a slide show outlining concerns of residents due to extensive water runoff surrounding 4300-4400 blocks of Grove Avenue and Joan Place. Drainage easements instated decades ago were intended to mitigate the issue but are currently ineffective. The storm water runoff has become an increasing issue in recent years, leading to property damage (water in basements). The damage resulted from the large rainfall event on April 2, 2024. Individual attempts have been made to mitigate the issues such as French drains and ditches. The residents are seeking a comprehensive solution to this issue. The slide show included pictures and videos of the rain event April 2, 2024. The video showed water blocked by trees and fences diverting the water flow into backyard of the 4300 block of Grove Avenue. This issue has been ongoing for years. We are requesting the Village to sponsor a storm water drainage assessment with the objective of identifying a comprehensive solution to the storm water runoff issue in the Grove avenue/Joan Place neighborhood. The comprehensive solution would include: 1. understanding how water flows and how to manage runoff through analysis and drainage design. 2. Identify any obstructions to the natural flow of surface water and develop a plan to address these obstructions. 3. Confirm if drainage easements are still in effect, and if so, what are the easement requirements and how they are to be enforced. 4. Recommend what improvements individual property owners can/cannot make in context of the Ohio Drainage Law.

Mayor Brown said he is going to ask Solicitor McTigue to do research and render an opinion. Mr. McTigue said he hopes to have the opinion to Mayor Brown in the upcoming weeks.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to approve the bills. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Health and Recreation

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met on Monday May 6th in Council Chambers. Present at the meeting were Health and Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair), Susan Brownknight (Vice-Chair), and Matthew Ayer (Member). Also in attendance were Mayor Bill Brown, and resident Doug Zemke. The meeting commenced at 5:30pm.

The purpose of the committee meeting was to review:

1. John Nolen Pavilion Roof Repair
2. John Nolen Pavilion Painting
3. Livingood Monument Stone Repair
4. Livingood Park Hedge Replacement

5. Strategic Tree Removal at the Concourse

The Committee reviewed two quotes for the roof repair at John Nolen Pavilion. The Malloy Roofing quote did not include cleaning and the combined quote to clean and repair is \$5,628.00. The total quote for HKC Roofing is \$4,824.67, including cleaning and repairs. The Committee unanimously recommends that we accept the bid from HKC Roofing and proceed with the roof repairs.

The Committee reviewed two quotes to paint the John Nolen Pavilion. The Committee selected the quote from Trummel Painting for \$3,250. This bid was updated to include a coat of bonding primer and two coats of Sherwin Williams Emerald. The Committee unanimously recommends that we accept the bid from Trummel painting and proceed with the painting of this structure after the roof is repaired. The total cost for the rehabilitation of the John Nolen Pavilion is \$8,074.67. There was \$5,000 appropriated from Permanent Improvements for this project.

The Committee reviewed the quote from McAaron Martin Construction to power wash and repair the Charlies Livingood Monument. The total cost including stone realignment, cleaning, repair, and regrouting is \$4,250. The Committee unanimously recommends that we accept this bid from McAaron Martin and proceed with the repair work. These repairs will require the trimming of the vegetation around the monument and the Maintenance Department will be instructed to perform this work.

There was \$7,500 appropriated from Permanent Improvements for the Livingood Monument. The Committee suggested that Council could proceed with the $\$5,000 + \$7,500 = \$12,500$ appropriated for Pavilion+Monument ($\$4,250 + \$8,075 = \$12,325$) two projects, with an appropriation later for the replacement hedge once its cost has been determined.

The Committee is still seeking recommendations and community input for the replacement of the hedge that flanks the Charles Livingood Monument.

The Committee reviewed the quote from Shawnee tree and the proposed tree work at the Concourse. The Committee unanimously recommends that the tree pruning and removal of the trees that are threatening the pergola be approved. The quote to prune two trees and to remove a dead tree trunk was approved for a total of \$955.00. The Committee agreed that next steps are focusing on the pergola renovation, additional treatment of invasive species on the hillside, and development of an overall plan for the park. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Finance Committee:

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 4:00 pm to discuss the health care plan for 2024 for full-time Mariemont employees. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee members Rob Bartlett, Marcy Lewis and Bob Van Stone, Mayor Bill Brown, Senior Administrative Assistant Joanee Van Pelt, and Police Chief Rick Hines. Mariemont currently participates in the Center for Local Government Benefits Plan (CLGBP). This is a consortium of municipalities that pools their money to self-fund health care and dental care insurance. Horan administers the plan and provides the Committee with what other communities are offering their employees. Attachment A includes Mariemont's three current plans and what other communities in the CLGBP offer for those same plans. In terms of HSA contribution and percent of premium paid by the employee, Mariemont is in line with the other communities for the Platinum A plan. However, we are below the average in both areas for Gold A and Platinum C. Below is a table summarizing the changes the Finance Committee is unanimously proposing so we are more in line with the average for each plan.

	Platinum A			Gold A			Platinum C	
	Current	Proposed		Current	Proposed		Current	Proposed
HSA Single	\$1,100	\$1,100		\$1,100	\$1,200		\$1,500	\$1,700
HSA EE + I	\$2,200	\$2,200		\$2,200	\$2,400		\$3,000	\$3,400
EE contribution as % of premium	13%	13%		7.5%			5%	9%

Because of higher health care claims over the past year, CLGBP has approved a 7.5% increase for health care premiums in 2024. Last year, premiums also increased by 7.5%, but in 2021 and 2020 there was no increase in the premium. CLGBP is recommending a 0% increase for dental care premiums for 2024. The 7.5% increase in health care premiums will cause total costs for the Village to increase by \$27,286. If we made no changes to the HSA or employee share of the premium, the Village would bear \$24,749 (91%) of the increase and employees would bear \$2,537. With the changes proposed by the Finance Committee, the Village would bear \$21,668 (79%) of the total increase and \$5,618 will be borne by the employees. Changing the employee contribution rates and the Village's HSA contribution rate requires a change to the salary ordinance for full-time employees. If council agrees with the Finance Committee's recommendation, the first reading of the new proposed ordinance will be at the May 27 council meeting. This enables the final reading and vote to occur in time for the changes to go into effect in August 2024. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Safety Committee:

The Safety Committee met on Tuesday April 23, 2024, at 4:11 PM. Present were Safety Committee members Matthew Ayer (Chair), Rob Bartlett (Vice Chair), and Randy York (Member); Mayor Bill Brown; Village Engineer Chris Ertel; Bob Van Stone; Syd Sabo. Engineer Ertel presented the engineering plans developed by Choice One Engineers for the Mariemont Connector Phase 1 (i.e., the segment from Miami Road to a point behind the Mariemont Library, where the shared-use path will meet with the Columbia Connector). Construction of the Columbia Connector, which will connect to the Little Miami Scenic Trail, is scheduled for 2026-27. Engineer Ertel and Chairman Ayer described design aspects including the selection of crosswalk locations by Choice One traffic engineers; reducing the path width from 12 to 11 feet; and design to retain large, open spaces in the Hiawatha/Rembold median. They also confirmed that this phase was fully funded, from a Clean Ohio Trails Fund Grant, with the local match in private donations via Tri-State Trails. Subsequent phases in planning stages, including their schedules and funding opportunities, were described, including the necessity for open forums for public input and plan reviews. After discussion, the Safety Committee unanimously recommends that Council authorize Engineer Ertel to prepare bid specifications and solicit bids for construction in 2024. The meeting adjourned at 5:04 PM.

Mr. Van Stone asked if we have documentation of the grant match from Tri-State Trails. Mr. Ayer said it was provided to Richard Ford and found it to be a firm commitment letter. Mr. Van Stone was concerned because the project will sit by itself for 1-2 years. We do not yet know the Village cost and by going forward with the bid the Village is implicitly saying the Village will do the connectors on each side. The Miami intersection will cost the Village approximately \$150,000 or \$800,000 if the SORTA grant does not come through. Mr. Rex Bevis attended a Council meeting several weeks ago and strongly suggested that the Village not put in the path until the intersection was completed – he believes that is a very valid point. The other concern is then continuing on Murray Avenue. Many object to the path crossing their driveway and the cost to the Village is unknown. No engineering or safety studies have been done, nor do we know what that cost will be.

Mr. Ayer responded that the nature of building these trails is done in pieces that match up with grant opportunities. An example is Wasson Way Trail. We have an opportunity to obtain the funding for that segment

through Clean Ohio Trails grant within the constraints of the program knowing that the Columbia Connector is proceeding, which Mariemont has committed to being a part of. The Village is not responsible for 1/3, but rather 1/3 of a small segment.

Mr. Bartlett said we had several meetings that were well attended and the Village received valuable feedback. He believes this is a wonderful opportunity. There is no way to fund this all at once.

Dr. Lewis said she would like to see the schematic rendering. Mr. York said the Village will spend nothing on Murray Path and the Mariemont Connector. He does not believe the Village will spend funds on any of it. There is enough funding and interest from private individuals.

After further discussion, Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Economic Development, Planning and Zoning Committee:

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendations from the Economic Development, Planning and Zoning Committee met to share and receive updates on the Industrial Complex which have resulted from the ongoing Economic Development Strategy Project with Envision. Present at the meeting were Committee Chairperson Marcy Lewis, Vice-Chairperson Bob Van Stone and Member Susan Brownknight, Mayor Bill Brown, Councilperson Randy York (as observer), resident Jennifer Degerberg, resident Doug Zemke and one other Mariemont resident. As part of the ongoing Economic Development Strategy project with Envision, it has become apparent that some (if not all) of the Industrial Complex should be incorporated into a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA). The exact boundaries of the CRA would be recommended by the Economic Development, Planning & Zoning Committee by the CRA Council and then ultimately voted on by the Village Council as a whole. In order to be proactive, The Economic Development, Planning & Zoning Committee voted unanimously to go ahead and have Mayor Brown reach out to the Village Solicitor to begin drawing up legislation for the CRA so that Council can get appropriate legislation in place in a timely and efficient manner.

Discussion ensued regarding the next steps the Committee would discuss. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Public Works and Service Committee

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer moved to accept the recommendations of The Public Works & Service Committee which met on April 24th at 4:40 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Members Randy York and Rob Bartlett, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, and Mayor Brown.

Village Engineer Ertel Presented four options for potential 2025 SORTA grant applications:

1. Murray – Miami intersection
 - a. Estimated construction cost \$692,000 to \$702,000 depending on selection of exact configuration.
 - b. Potential SORTA grant (90%) \$632,800
 - c. Mariemont cost: \$70,200
 - d. Mariemont would also be responsible for approximately \$75,000 to develop engineering drawings
2. Repave Pleasant Street (Mariemont Avenue to Mariemont Avenue)
 - a. Estimated construction cost \$170,000

- b. Potential SORTA grant (90%) \$153,000
 - c. Mariemont cost \$17,000
 - d. Scheduled for 2025 repaving according to 5-year plan
3. Repave West Street
- a. Estimated construction cost \$250,000
 - b. Potential SORTA grant (90%) \$225,000
 - c. Mariemont cost \$25,000
 - d. Scheduled for repaving in 2027 according to 5-year plan
4. Repave Miami Bluff
- a. Estimated construction cost \$330,000
 - b. Potential SORTA grant (90%) \$297,000
 - c. Mariemont cost \$33,000
 - d. Scheduled for repaving in 2028 according to 5-year plan

After considerable discussion of Village needs, the repaving schedule proposed by the Village Engineer in his 2022 evaluation, and grant possibilities, the committee recommended the following priorities for SORTA grant applications:

1. Murray – Miami intersection
2. Repave West Street
3. Repave Pleasant Street (Mariemont Avenue to Mariemont Avenue)

The Committee acknowledged the potential challenges for the street and capital improvement budgets if all recommended grant applications are approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM.

Mr. Van Stone said the three factors driving the decision were the Village needs, grant estimates and opportunities and Engineer Ertel's paving schedule. On roll call; Six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*Memorial Day Parade and Presentation of the Outstanding Citizen Award will be held Monday May 27, 2024.

*Village Offices will be Closed in Observation of Memorial Day Monday May 27, 2024.

*The Regular Council Meeting Scheduled for Monday May 27, 2024, will be held Tuesday May 28, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

*The Budget Hearing will be held Monday June 10, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. The Council meeting will begin immediately following the conclusion of the Budget Hearing.

Resolutions:

- "To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for Patriot's Lane Street Repair" had a second reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to suspend the rules to allow for the third reading. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-28-24 was adopted.

- “To Accept Bid of J.K. Meurer Corporation for the 2024 Street Rehabilitation Project; To Authorize Contract” had a second reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. York to suspend the rules to allow for the third reading. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The revision of the Resolution is the removal of the Church parking lot changing the amount from \$291,000 to \$239,000. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-29-24 was adopted.
- “To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for the Mariemont Connector Shred-Use Path; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-30-24 was adopted.
- “Resolution Approving Interfund Transfers of Funds from the Permanent Improvement Fund to Note Retirement Fun (3401) and; To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. The Resolution had a second and third readings. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-31-24 was adopted.

Ordinances:

- “To Delete in Their Entirety Sections 151.115 and 151.116, Solar Heating, Cooling, and Hot Water Systems from the Mariemont Code of Ordinances and To Include New Sections 151.115 Through 151.121 Solar energy Systems” had a first reading.

Mr. Bartlett asked to add to the Finance Committee the matter of Five-Year Capital Forecast.

Mr. Ayer said this year’s permanent improvements were completed at the pool. The Capital Campaign for the wading pool is starting off well.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer