

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
June 24, 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. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the minutes as written for June 10, 2024. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the minutes as written for the Budget Hearing for June 10, 2024. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Bryce Lewis, Herman Mitchell Consulting Group: Letter Dated June 24, 2024, re: Mariemont Small Business and Community Event

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Bryce Lewis, Herman Mitchell Consulting Group, was granted permission to address Council. He thanked Council for the contributions they have made to this beautiful community. He is from Mariemont and has had the pleasure and luxury of growing up in this safe environment. One day his kids will enjoy the same pleasure and for that he is grateful. After the Covid-19 pandemic, small businesses and communities have lost touch with each other and we can stimulate this recovery. It has been his dream for the past month to organize as many small businesses and local government entities as possible to form the Mariemont Small Business and Community Event. His dream has Mio's Pizzeria teaching families how to make dough. Graeter's teaching families how to craft homemade ice cream. Smitty's Cyclery showing children how to reinstall broken chains on their bikes. So many businesses are interested in this event and excited for Council's support. He asked Council if there are any barriers that we can't overcome to achieve this dream for our community and small businesses.

Mandi Beecroft, Manager Mariemont Branch Public Library, was granted permission to address Council. She shared upcoming events at the library including Rise and Shine Telescope Viewing, Regency Dancing event for adults, Ethics and Dragons program and a water Olympics program. More information can be found on their website <https://chpl.org/locations/MM/>.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to approve the bills. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the recommendation by the Health and Recreation Committee. The Health and Recreation Committee met on Tuesday June 18th 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, council member Bob Van Stone, and residents Maggie Kenner and David Middleton. The meeting commenced at 5:30pm.

The purpose of the committee meeting was: The Final Review of the Dogwood Park Centennial Rehabilitations Plans

Committee Chair Randy York reviewed the evolution of the plans for the centennial rehabilitation of Dogwood Park. The plans first appeared in the Mariemont Town Crier in May of 2022 and the evolving plans for Dogwood Park have appeared in the Mariemont Town Crier 10 times. The plans have also been posted on the pop-up menu on the Village website since the spring of 2022. A resident survey was conducted in November of 2022 and 65% of respondents were most excited about the rehabilitation of Dogwood Park. Two public meetings were scheduled in the fall of 2023 with an additional survey; plans were adapted based upon the resident feedback from these meetings and the survey. Concept boards with the Dogwood Park plan were also displayed at the Taste of Mariemont and Kiwanis Arts & Crafts fair. The Centennial Committee engaged the key stakeholders in the development of the plans for Dogwood Park including adjacent property owners, The Mariemont Recreation Association, The Mariemont Preschool Parents Group, The Mariemont Preservation Foundation, Marielders, The Village of Mariemont, The Garden Club of Mariemont, The Mariemont Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Mariemont Tree Board. The Dogwood Park project has received 18 letters of support from federal and state representatives, Hamilton County officials, and Mariemont organizations. The Committee reviewed the Dogwood Park plans and unanimously approved the plan contingent on the following updates:

Significantly more dogwood trees would be added

The proposed aluminum fence around the Bell Tower would be eliminated

The width of the loop trail sidewalks (except for the sidewalk along Pleasant Street) would be increased from 5' to 6'

The Committee further recommends that the rehabilitation of the Clarence Erickson Shelter be added to the permanent improvement budget for 2025, that MPPG representative(s) evaluate each new play apparatus in person to confirm the choices prior to purchase, and that surface lighting for the bell tower walkway be evaluated for potential inclusion in the plan. The Committee determined that there are adequate resources on hand to initiate the project in October and acknowledged that the project may need to be phased depending on the results of the bids and the results and conditions associated with the outstanding funding requests; the current balance committed to the project is \$1,176,775 with an anticipated total cost of \$1,400,000. The Committee also unanimously agreed to direct Village Engineer Chris Ertel to put together a bid package for Dogwood Park that can be published and announced according to appropriate timelines and procedures. Finally, the Committee acknowledged that the park rehabilitation will likely result in the suspension of recreational activities at Dogwood Park for the spring/summer and fall seasons in 2025. The Mariemont Recreation Association will need to find alternative locations for recreational activities for these seasons. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

The plans being referred to are the Kleinger's plans. MPPG has donated \$16,000 towards the project. The estimated cost to totally rehabilitate the playground is \$300,000. The question was asked if the project will be phased out to match the funding available. Mr. York said that cash flow will be a challenge. We have 1.1 million and will see how far that can get us. It is unknown what the bids will come back at, and it is unknown how much more funding will be received and what conditions will be put on those funds. We may need to take an advance on the Land and Water grant, in order to accept the bid. Fiscal Officer Rankin said as long as it is paid back in the same year, it will not be a problem. Engineer Ertel said he did not believe that phasing out the work would be a problem. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Brown referred to Council the desire to have a proper pickle ball court.

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 3:30 pm to discuss the Village website. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee members Rob Bartlett and Bob Van Stone, Mayor Bill Brown, Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin, Administrative Assistant Allison Uhrig and council member Matt Ayer participating as a resident. Our current

website contract is set to expire on April 1, 2025. We are currently paying Munission \$4,400 a year for both the base website and the recreational website. However, the performance and support of the website has not been good, and the ability to handle the purchase of memberships and transfer the money to our bank account has been challenging. As such, the committee, with Allison's leadership, explored other options for website providers. There is a strong preference to have a local provider, so that support can be timelier and in person when possible. Allison explored two options: LegendWebWorks, who is local and runs the website for Deerfield Township, and Mike Manford, who provides our current IT support. LegendWebWorks estimates the one-time cost to create a website that has the same functionality as our current website at \$12,000. This also covers training and content migration. The project would take 6-7 months. The on-going costs would be \$160/month or \$1,920/year. There would be an additional fee of ~\$10 to \$45/month to send email blasts through a third-party site. Mike Manford has provided us with a quote of \$5,000 to \$6,000 in one-time costs to get a website with the same functionality as our current website up and running. This includes training and content migration. The on-going costs would be \$20/month for web hosting on GoDaddy, and \$10 to \$20/month to send email blasts through a third-party vendor. Mike also provided the committee with other websites he has created and is supporting. Also, the website would be ours, so if something were to happen to Mike, we could still continue to run the website. For additional perspective, the last time we looked at this in 2022, Eli Wendler contacted Civic Plus, another website provider who was part of our original RFP but is not local, and their costs for the recreation website alone were \$7,800 one-time and \$4,275/year on-going. The Finance Committee recommends that the Village sign an agreement with Mike Manford to create our new website. The target timing would be October/November of 2024, as Mike will also be installing a new payment process and he would like to do this when there are no memberships being purchased or facilities being rented. If council agrees, the next step would be for our Village Solicitor to draw up the appropriate documents. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Wednesday June 12, 2024, at 4:30 PM. Present were Safety Committee members Matthew Ayer (Chair), Rob Bartlett (Vice Chair), and Randy York (Member); Mayor Bill Brown; Village Engineer Chris Ertel; Zoning Officer Rod Holloway, and Doug Zempf. Engineer Ertel presented a summary of the bids received for the Mariemont Connector Phase 1 (i.e., from Miami Road to the point behind the Library where the path will join the Columbia Connector). Engineer Ertel advised that the low bidder, J.K. Meurer Corporation, has performed well on several Mariemont projects over the past 10 years. The total construction cost of \$231,062 plus Choice One design fees is fully funded – up to \$229,743 from ODNR Clean Ohio Trails Fund and \$75,000 committed from Tri-State Trails. The Safety Committee unanimously recommends to Council that the Village contract with J.K. Meurer Corporation for constructing this path segment, scheduled for Q3 2024. The Committee recommended that Engineer Ertel investigate adding conduit sleeves at intervals transverse to the path for potential future utilities such as surface mounted lighting. Engineer Ertel would prepare the necessary legislation for the June 24, 2024, Council meeting. The Committee recommends tracking this Project in a separate UAN subaccount. Mr. Ayer reported updated fundraising information from the Pool Commission (PC). Pledges are near 90% of the \$150,000 private fundraising goal for the \$225,000 project. The village-wide, publicly advertised phase of the capital campaign is commencing. The PC expects to reach the pledge goal by the end of June and is beginning to convert the pledges into donations to Mariemont Legacy Foundation. The Committee reviewed DRAFT bid specifications for a turnkey project to replace our 60-year-old wading pool. The next step in the Project is for the Village to solicit bids and select a preferred Contractor. The Committee unanimously recommends that Engineer Ertel finalize the bid specifications and solicit bids for the Project. Engineer Ertel agreed to prepare a resolution for the June 24, 2024, Council meeting. The Committee recommends tracking this Project in a separate UAN subaccount. Mr. Ayer said the \$150,000 from private fundraising is going well. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Brown referred the parking on the west side of Pleasant Street to the Safety Committee especially on big events and game days.

The following were removed from the Public Works and Service Agenda: 2024 Transit Infrastructure, Village Street Sign Replacement, Energy Aggregation, 2025 Sorta Grant Opportunities.

Mr. Van Stone updated Council on the Public Works & Service Committee which met on Jun 13, 2024, at 4:31 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Member Randy York, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, Mayor Brown, and Councilperson Dr. Marcy Lewis in the role of a private citizen. Village Engineer Ertel discussed the proposal by Choice One to perform a topological survey and to prepare 50% of the necessary engineering drawings for construction of a 400-foot-long sidewalk from Wooster Pike to Chestnut Street through Dale Park. The proposal was discussed, but the Committee could not reach a conclusion. The item was tabled until there could be a meeting with all 3 members of the committee. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Miscellaneous:

*Village Offices will be closed Thursday July 4, 2024, in Observation of Independence Day

*Village Fire Works will be held July 4, 2024, at dusk. Mayor Brown said this year's donations have been numerous and included a generous donation from MPF. The cost for the fireworks is \$6500. To date we have collected \$4,377 and the Village is still accepting donations.

Mayor Brown spoke with Mr. Spinnenweber regarding the plantings in the triangular section of Wooster Pike and Madisonville Road. Planting will begin soon and the watering system will be expanded.

The electric work on the median meters hopefully will begin this week.

Mayor Brown referred to the Public Works and Service Committee the Master Tree Work Plan from the Tree Advisory Board.

Council agreed that the Miami Road/Hiawatha/Rembold Intersection Study be moved from the Public Works and Service Committee to the Committee of the Whole because it involves multiple Committees of Council.

Dr. Lewis said the Village has a new tenant in the Industrial Park. She read the following email from David Pease: "Hi Mariemont Team, Good morning! I am extremely excited to share the news that Pease Doors officially has a new home at 5801 Mariemont Avenue! We greatly appreciate the guidance and effort from the Village and Envision. The grant and other support were a huge factor in bringing us across the finish line. We are going to begin moving our warehouse starting next week and anticipate the warehouse being fully moved by the end of July. The downtown office will take a bit longer, with the landlord working to first cleanup the office side by Nov 1st. Please let me know if you have any questions. Again -- THANK YOU! Best, David"

Resolutions:

"To Authorize Ohio Department of Transportation to Proceed with the Columbia Connector Project PID no. 114496 County/Route/Section: Ham Columbia connector, and To Enter Into Contract" had a second reading. This Resolution has been changed since the last meeting to clarify the wording regarding the Village's obligation for the participation agreement. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to amend the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

"To Authorize Contracting with Columbia Township to Share Expense to Rehabilitate Grove Avenue" had a second reading.

"To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for the Dogwood Park Centennial Rehabilitation" had a first reading.

“To Authorize the Solicitation of Wading Pool Reconstruction and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone 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. 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-34-24 was adopted.

“To Accept Bid of J.K. Meurer Corporation for the Mariemont Connector Shared Use Trail Project and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight 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. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-35-24 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“To Amend Ordinance No. O-2-24 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Increase Payment of Employees” had a third reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-11-24 was adopted.

Mr. York updated that the roof at the Nolen Pavilion has been repaired. Some of the work at Livingood has begun. The big stone will need to be replaced by two stones due to the potential of cracking.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer