

**Village of Mariemont
Special Council Meeting
February 17, 2025**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Mr. Ayer, Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Brownknight, Mr. Van Stone and Mr. York.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to excuse the absence of Dr. Lewis. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the spending request from Maintenance Superintendent James re: Mature Tree Pruning in District 3 Area per the Tree Advisory Board's Plan, On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

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

"A Resolution Authorizing Application for Pedestrian and Bicycle Special Solicitation; and Contracting with the Ohio Department of Transportation" had a second reading.

Mr. Van Stone spoke with residents along short Murray Avenue who opposed the plan. Abigail Uihlein, 6975 Murray Avenue, sent an email. Concerns from the residents include that there has not been a safety study to discuss the bike path. There is no final plan. He asked for input from the residents as he is conflicted going forward. Residents want to know how it will affect their rights-of-way and how it will affect safety. His understanding was the grants could be applied for quarterly. He asked why not do the work upfront and apply for the grant a quarter later.

Mr. Ayer said ODOT has a bucket of money that they can spend. The grant applications will come in with a committee using their own set of criteria to decide who receives grant funding. From instruction and discussion with intel from Columbus, it is very important to apply for the grant sooner than later because the funding will be gone. He spoke with Mr. Uihlein and he plans to meet with both of them next week to address concerns and answer questions. He will report back and let Mr. Van Stone know how it all goes and plan to get together to discuss. As far as a safety study goes, what we would do would address the safety items associated with building a path through there.

Mr. Bartlett said this grant is different than others as it will pay for the design work. The estimate will build in the cost submitted for the grant the costs for closing off Rowan Hill/Cambridge, cul-de-sac, safety turnaround, potential driveway turnaround etc. Council has committed to holding more public meetings after we get the results from the study that is to be done. It is concerning to him if residents are being told information that is not necessarily correct.

Discussion ensued regarding having plans available for residents to view and how the grant application will include the cost of the plans for future meetings for resident review. Mrs. Brownknight said she is a supporter of concerns of the minority. She feels she would be more concerned if there was not someone questioning all the pieces being discussed. She commended Mr. Van Stone on the critical role he brought to the discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer