

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
April 14, 2025**

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. (Mrs. Brownknight left the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and returned at 7:25 p.m.)

Minutes:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the minutes as written for the Council meeting March 24, 2025. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to approve the minutes as written for the Special Council Meeting March 24, 2025. On roll call;

Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to amend the minutes of the Special Council Meeting March 31, 2025, to read "Questions were raised about the economic data". It was agreed to remove the financial data altogether. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to approve the amended minutes. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: March 2025 Monthly Report

*From Maintenance Superintendent James: March 2025 Monthly Report. He reported that the mulching began today. The Concourse will be mulched in time for prom, but the playgrounds may not get done while they have the additional equipment. Mr. Jim Goetz with the Parks Board said they were going to experiment with two benches with power washing and a material to help seal (but not a teakwood oil).

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: March 2025 Monthly Report

Permission to Address Council:

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. York asked if the Choice One grant paperwork is all complete. Mr. Ayer said it is all complete and the pool work is on schedule. Chief Hines said there will need to be some hidden lights and sirens for the unmarked vehicle. It will come under budget. The extra money will carry over to 2026 for the purchase of a new K-9-unit vehicle. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to approve the bills. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Health and Recreation

The Health & Recreation Committee met on Thursday April 3rd at Ann Buntin Becker Park. Present at the meeting were Health & Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair), Matthew Ayer (Member). Also in attendance were seven area residents/stakeholders. The meeting commenced at 5:00pm. The purpose of the committee meeting was to:

1. Gather community input on the current maintenance needs and upgrades for Ann Buntin Becker Park and to develop a long-term vision for the park.

Based upon this input the committee recommends the following immediate maintenance needs be addressed:

1. The two play areas require a weed barrier and the application of playground appropriate mulch.
2. The footprint of the smaller playground should be reduced with a timber or other barrier.
3. The baseball backstop should be removed.

4. The mound (possibly), railroad ties, and sand pit on the north side of the park should be removed and the ground leveled.
5. The sagging seats and tops of the picnic tables should be fixed/replaced.
6. The bike racks should be painted.
7. The trim boards on the seating platforms should be repaired/replaced.
8. Doggie bag stations should be added to the east and west ends of the park.

For the long-term vision of the park, the residents requested more shade be added to the park. This can be accomplished by adding shade trees around the perimeter of the park and/or adding a shade structure on the east end of the park. The residents also expressed an interest in adding a designated Dog Park. Jim Goetz and the Park Board will work on feasibility, plans, and a budget for these potential additions. The Park Board will also work with area groups to increase awareness and usage of the park. Concern was expressed on the condition of the garden area that is utilized by the Waldorf School. Dexter Simpson confirmed that the Waldorf School will be participating in the April 27th scheduled volunteer clean-up day at ABB Park; the condition of the garden area will be monitored/addressed throughout the year. Dexter also offered the use of the beds in the garden for area residents. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

Mr. Goetz said they will solicit community input to see from a short-term perspective what maintenance issues need to be addressed. Then a long-term master plan will be created and they will work with the Tree Board. The initial thought is to add shade trees. A volunteer clean-up day is scheduled for June 27th.

Superintendent James said the paved area in the park used to be a basketball court which was later made into a skate park. It is why the concrete is busted up. He voiced concern over the additional work and how to fit it into the schedule. Mr. Van Stone said he sees this as a special project, whereas Mr. York said he viewed it as regular parks maintenance and noted that this park has not had regular maintenance performed. There is a requirement for a park to have a certified measurement of mulch. Discussion ensued regarding the demands in the Maintenance Department and the prioritization of work. The hope is that volunteers will help take the load off and work in conjunction with the department. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendations of the Health and Recreation Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

The Health & Recreation Committee met on Thursday April 10th in council chambers. Present at the meeting were Health & Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair), Matthew Ayer (Member). Also in attendance were Mayor Brown, Maggie Kenner, and Doug Zemke and Fiscal Officer Rankin.

The purpose of the committee meeting was: The review and rebid of the Dogwood Park Centennial Project.

This project has been through the bid process and two bids were received. However, the Village was awarded a Hamilton County CDBG of \$69,000 on 4/7/25. A condition of this grant is that the project is not bid until the project funds are approved for expenditure by HCP+D. The committee therefore proposes that the Village rejects the current bids. The bids received also were higher than expected making it necessary to phase the bid into 2025 and 2026. The committee therefore recommends that the project be rebid with the following conditions to meet the timeline of available funding:

1. The parking lot and handicapped parking spaces will be delayed until 2026
2. Eliminate utility relocation until funding is available
3. Playground will be phased with additional play equipment, retaining wall, and ADA surface until funding is available
4. Eliminate replacement of water stations
5. Remove playground mulch – can be added by service department
6. Seed instead of sod – may sod in 2026 if funding is available
7. Defer Dogwood trees until funding is available

In addition, the committee recommends, if feasible, that the Village Engineer prepare separate bids based upon specific park features, these include:

1. Demolition/tree and brush removal
2. Fencing
3. Loop Trail/Sidewalks
4. Playfields/Athletic Fields (including grading and irrigation)

5. Playground
6. Parking lots and parking spaces
7. Final landscaping

This bid package will be held until clearance is received from HCP+D to proceed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Mr. Van Stone asked for clarification regarding the parking lot and handicapped spaces will be delayed until 2026. Mr. York said it will be included in the bid. This is scaling back and simplifying the bid. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the recommendations of the Health and Recreation Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Safety Committee

The Safety Committee (SC) met on Wednesday April 9 at 4:30 PM in the Municipal Building. Present were SC members Matthew Ayer (Chair), Randy York (Member); Mayor Brown; and resident Joyce Monger.

The Committee reviewed the Operating Plan provided by the Pool Commission. Mr. York moved to accept the Operating Plan, and Mr. Ayer concurred. A summary of the Plan is below. Ms. Monger recommended that the Pool Commission consider a specific rate for “youth” or “student” and evaluate whether this category would increase revenue. The Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Operational Expense Detail Total	\$204,024	1.04	\$195,796	\$8,229
	Estimated 2025 Expenses	Expense Indexed to 2024	2024 Expenses	2025 \$ +/- vs 2024
Payroll	\$123,834	1.03	\$120,227	\$3,607
Greater Cincinnati Water Works	\$8,000	0.74	\$10,780	-\$2,780
Pool Maintenance & Supplies	\$12,995	0.40	\$32,396	-\$19,401
Snack Shack Supplies	\$10,500	1.11	\$9,500	\$1,000
Duke Energy - Electricity	\$6,588	1.03	\$6,396	\$192
Swim Team Total (ex. Coach Salary in Payroll)	\$5,425	0.90	\$6,057	-\$632
Paypal	\$3,948	1.03	\$3,833	\$115
Hamilton County Public Health	\$1,773	1.03	\$1,721	\$52
PNC	\$489	1.03	\$475	\$14
Miscellaneous Operational Expenses	\$1,863	0.42	\$4,410	-\$2,548
Additional - New 2025 Expenses	\$28,610	#DIV/0!	\$0	\$28,610
Estimated Total 2025	\$204,024	1.04	\$195,796	\$8,229
Estimated Total Revenue 2025	\$193,229	3% Increase from 2024		

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Council thanked the Pool Commission for all their work.

Public Works and Service

Mayor Brown said the Public Works and Service report regarding the review/evaluation of the Maintenance Department and Spending Request required information from our insurance company regarding an employee and a contract worker. It appears to be a gray area. He suggested that the report be tabled in order to further review and discuss. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to table the report. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*Arbor Day will be celebrated April 25, 2025, at the Mariemont Elementary School

*The Memorial Day Parade will be Monday May 26, 2025

*Village Offices will be closed in observation of Memorial Day Monday May 26, 2025

Mayor Brown said he performed the ribbon cutting for the new bookstore, Village Bookworm, which opened in the Village. He encouraged all residents to visit the store.

Resolutions:

“A Resolution to Create a Tax Incentive Council and Confirm the Appointment of Members” had a second reading.

“A Resolution Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority” had a first reading. Solicitor McTigue said this was mistakenly titled as an Ordinance. Mrs. Van Pelt will make the change and also change the wording to reflect a majority of Council duly elected instead of two-thirds majority.

Ordinances:

Chief Hines said Officer Simon and Sergeant Geraci completed their one-year probationary period. He will have them attend a Council meeting to be approved for Regular Full-Time Employees. He attended the Matt Haverkamp annual 5K and canine presentation at Spring Grove Cemetery. Officer Kurtz and K-9 Dasty were also present. The Haverkamp Foundation purchased Dasty for the Village of Mariemont.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer