

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
September 8, 2025**

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

Minutes:

Mr. Bartlett asked that the minutes be amended to correct the last name to “Degerberg”, and that the Health and Recreation Committee report be amended to show the leftover monies from pickleball would be encumbered in the restricted fund. Mr. York noted that the minutes did not reflect that Council would be reviewing the 2025 Permanent Improvement items. Mrs. Van Pelt said the agenda was updated to include the matter. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to accept the Council minutes as amended from August 25, 2025. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Building Official Holloway: August 2025 Monthly Report

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: August 2025 Monthly Report

*From Fiscal Officer Rankin: Permanent Improvement Projects Update. Council reviewed and discussed the following:

Leaf Vacuum: \$50,000 holder for future purchase

Wading Pool: Complete

Columbia Connector: Survey and Title Work - \$4,000 was spent this year; (total cost was split with the library)

Concourse Pergola: work is in progress; Fiscal Officer Rankin said the purchase order carried over in 2024 was carried over to 2025. Depending on the status at the end of this year, the funds will carry over to 2026, but it cannot be carried over another additional year.

Pool Bathhouse: The Pool Commission would like to spend \$22,000 to put new flooring in the bathhouse. It would be nice to do the work now and not spring 2026. It would take a vote of Council to spend additional funds.

Park Benches: The benches were cleaned by members of the Parks Board. For now, additional benches were suspended for 2025 and 2026. Benches can be moved to other areas of the Village as needed, while some benches may be harvested for repair parts.

Ann Buntin Becker Park: No additional money to be allocated in 2025

Sidewalks/Curbs: Grinding work was previously approved

Municipal Building add Copper Ridge to Roof: Funds will be carried over; additional work for bathroom remodel and the lobby will be requested

Old Town Square Lighting & Signage: Deferred to 2026

Boathouse Roof Repairs: The work will need to be re-bid. Mr. Ayer will obtain an updated quote

LED Lights: The Public Works report requests additional funds to complete the project. Mr. Van Stone will confirm with the Service Department that they have a master list of lights in the Village

Administration Office Remodel: Complete

Old Town Parking Lot: The cost is \$49,900 or \$77,400 depending on including apron and does not include cost of striping. Mayor Brown said he and Mr. Holloway met with Dexter Simpson, Director of Waldorf School, and discussed various issues including how the school sees the lot being laid out in terms of a drop-off area etc. Choice One provided a quote of \$1,000 to provide a proposed layout plan. Mrs. Brownknight did not come away from the last Council meeting feeling the discussion with Waldorf School would be a partnership on what they want, but what needs to change. Residents were very clear with their displeasure and concerns. The businesses in the area should be asked for their input as well. We need to protect our public property in a way that works for everyone. Mayor Brown said they wanted to establish a line of communication which covered many topics. He read Mary Beth York’s comments from the last Council Meeting – “She asked what legal parameters have ever been given to the Waldorf School. She suggested a review of their use of public property for their private school. It’s time to look at the legality of their use of Village property”. Mr. Ayer said at the meeting, the community was particularly concerned that the Waldorf School would be managing the Chapel. That proposal is now off the table. Much of the statements that came from certain community members are ancient history – either

Waldorf School has corrected the issues or they never happened. Nothing changes the fact that we have a municipal parking lot owned by the Village between two landmarks in our Historic District that is a mess and needs to be repaved. Council has already budgeted money for the project. The parking lot is unsafe and he believes the Village is borderline negligent in delaying repair; it has been three years. He does not believe the residents' complaints hold credibility. Mr. Van Stone agrees that the negotiations with Waldorf School need to play out to see if they are willing to contribute towards the cost. Mr. Ayer said he could get a written commitment from Waldorf School for \$2,000-\$3,000 for the repaving of the lot and they have a contingency plan for parking while the work is being completed. Engineer Ertel estimates the project would take 3-4 days to complete, but the contractor would need to know to proceed by October 1, 2025. Mr. York said Council has voted on this unanimously twice for two years. He does not understand what is going to change in negotiations over the next two weeks that we have not been able to accomplish in three years. He wants to see this project done in 2025. We owe it to the residents and the businesses in the area. The striping must include a drop-off area for safety concerns – that does not become a leveraging bargaining point.

After further discussion, Council agreed to let Mayor Brown and Building Official Holloway have further discussion with Waldorf School and set a target date to have an answer in two weeks at the next Council meeting. Council could vote on the additional spending (stripping/design) without going back to committee for recommendation. It was brought to Mayor's Brown's attention that three quarters of the property line on the exit out of the parking lot closest to the school, appears to be on their property. Solicitor McTigue said it would require an easement agreement, though a prescriptive easement may already exist. From a legal standpoint, the Village has very little leverage over Waldorf School to contribute any funding but does have the leverage to determine how long cars can park in the lot.

Park Lane: To be discussed in the Public Works report

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Susan Casey, 3721 Petoskey, was granted permission to address Council. She believes Council should be looking at all options for the street signs. She is worried that it is moving too quickly. Mayor Brown said the new signs are mainly just along Wooster Pike. The committee report indicated that the committee had made no recommendation to go forward, but to place those the Village already purchased.

Mr. Ben Weiss, 4100 Rowan Hill Drive, was granted permission to address Council. He asked for an update on the blockage of Rowan Hill. It was explained that when an agenda item is bolded – it will be addressed at the meeting. Mr. Ayer said he is planning to schedule a Safety Committee meeting to discuss options and will be sure to let him know when it will be held.

Ms. Jackie Dovle, Hiawatha Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. She said there are many streets that are affected by road closures. She is unclear how the whole project will be looked at. Once a street is closed it impacts the surrounding streets. Mr. Ayer said to bring her suggestions to the Safety Committee meeting he hopes to schedule for next week. No final decision has been made.

Mr. Doug Zemke, 3901 West Stret, was granted permission to address Council. He said there are 281 students at the Waldorf School that we need to think about. The safety of the lot and traffic in the area needs to be considered. He listened to the last meeting and said he feels it is great that the kids use the park. If they misuse it, they Village needs to address the misuse. He does not like to alienate the Village from the school.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. York asked about the library subdivision of lots by the high school. Engineer Ertel explained that it is part of the Columbia Connector up the hill from Walton Creek. The issue is that a property line cannot be moved. The two parcels need to be combined and then subdivide at a different location. It will still remain Village property. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to pay the bills. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Public Works

The Public Works & Service Committee met on September 2, 2025, at 4:03 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Members Randy York and Rob Bartlett, Mayor Bill Brown, Fiscal Officer Kelly Rannkin, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, and 10 residents of Park Lane. The first agenda item was a discussion of repaving Park Lane. The adjacent street, Harvard Acres, is scheduled for repaving in the fall of 2025. The residents of Park Lane requested that the paving be continued to repave their street. Engineer Ertel reported that the paving contractor could pave Park Lane for \$42,000. Mr. York moved that the Village should approve a change order to repave Park Lane. It was approved unanimously. There was some discussion of the funds available in the Permanent Improvement (PI) Fund. Engineer Ertel reported that the paving contractor could repave the municipal parking lot for approximately \$50,000 and Choice One could perform the engineering work to develop a paint striping plan for about \$5,000. Mrs. Rankin is planning to report to council of the amount of funds available in the PI fund by the Council meeting on September 8. Mr. Van Stone moved that Council should approve spending \$5,925 to convert the remaining 15 streetlights to LED bulbs and globes. This effort would complete the LED conversion throughout the Village. This funding would be contingent on the availability of funding in the PI Fund. It was approved unanimously. Mr. York requested that the Service Department make sure that all the street light posts are painted "Mariemont green". The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.

The work on Park will not include curb work due to cost and there are no curbs there now. It would have to be discussed where to put them. The extra funds for the LED lights will not compromise other projects. The grinding work of the sidewalks was approved to move forward. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the recommendations of the Public Works Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*Leaf Collection will begin October 4, 2025 and will end December 2025

Resolutions:

Ordinances:

"To Amend Section 51.17 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances, To Increase Fees Collected for Garbage and Refuse Pickup" had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-12-25 was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer