

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
October 13, 2025**

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

Minutes:

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to approve the minutes as written for the Council Meeting September 22, 2025. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Ms. Kristin Van Scoy, 4008 Lytle Woods Place, was granted permission to address Council. She gave a brief update on the Tree Advisory Board. She thanked Council for the 2025 allocation of \$66,500 in support of our street tree planting and proactive maintenance programs. These funds enabled the Tree Board to have 127 trees professionally pruned in early 2025. We anticipate planting approximately 70 trees in November and will initiate our 2025-2026 dormant season pruning in November 2025 with the remaining funds. In addition to these improvements funded by Council, we are proud to share that over the past 12 months, the Tree Board donated 915 volunteer hours to the Village. This includes strategic management of the street tree program, as well as hands-on labor to improve the structure and longevity of our street trees. This contribution is valued at \$30,000. During the 2024 dormant season, we planned and oversaw the installation of 49 trees in tree maintenance district 3 (Fieldhouse, Denny Place area) and we pruned additional 136 trees, bringing the total number of street trees pruned to 263. We continue to have many accomplishments of which we are proud; a few highlights include:

- *Initiated a tree request which allowed the Tree Board to prioritize residents who really want trees within our annual district planting. 40% of the trees planted in 2024 were requested by residents.

- *All 97 trees planted during our first two years managing the planting program are still alive, due in part to our efforts to ensure trees are planted properly and our work with the Service Department to prioritize watering and protecting trees in their first two years. For perspective, sources estimate 10-30% of street trees die within a year of being planted.

- *Over the past two years, over 500 trees that otherwise would not have been cared for, have been pruned.

Going forward they plan: proactive dormant season pruning in district 4 (behind the movie theater, Thorndike area) once approved at the October 27, 2025, meeting; inventory of maintenance District 1 (inventorying the street trees in this area so we know what's required to maintain them); juvenile tree pruning in Districts 1 and 4 Tree Board and Service Department. In 2026 the Board requests a bit of flexibility. Tree dormancy cycles do not align with fiscal years, so every year we will be managing one pruning cycle across two fiscal cycles.

Communications:

- *From Police Chief Hines: August 2025 Monthly Report

- *Tax Administrator Barlow: September 2025 Monthly Report. Mr. Bartlett noted that last year there was a one-time collection of \$500,000 from a business. We are down in business collections and up in individual withholding collections. He asked if Envision had supplied the job incentive rebate language to encourage businesses to move into the Village. Dr. Lewis said that it had not yet been done.

- *From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: September 2025 Monthly Report

Permission to Address Council:

Motion to Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Health & Recreation Committee

The Health & Recreation Committee met on Monday October 6th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers. Present at the meeting were Health & Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair), Matthew Ayer (Member), and Susan Brownknight (Member). Also in attendance were mayor Brown, Jim Goetz, Doug Zemke, and Linda Bartlett.

The purpose of the Committee meeting was to:

1. Review 2025 results, 2025 spending requests, 2026 spending requests, 2026 proposed membership rates, and Racquet Pro contract from the Mariemont Racquet Club Board.
2. Review 2025 results and 2026 plan and spending requests from the Mariemont Parks Advisory Board.
3. Review 2025 results and 2026 plan and spending requests from the Mariemont South 80 Committee.

First and foremost, the committee acknowledges and recognizes the contributions of the Mariemont Racquet Club Board and the Mariemont Parks Advisory Board. The attached reports highlight their impressive contributions in 2025 as well as their planned activities in support of the Village in 2026. We thank you for your dedication and service.

The Committee unanimously agreed to:

1. Accept the 2025 spending requests (see detail on attached report) from the Mariemont Racquet Club. Funding will be allocated from the appropriate fund as indicated (dedicated pickleball fund or general fund).
2. Approve the 2026 Racquet Club rates with an adjustment to the junior resident rate from \$52 to \$50.
3. Approve the extension of the Tennis Pro contract to three years pending review and approval by Solicitor McTigue.
4. Offer a "Adult Resident Rate" to Mariemont School District employees.
5. Assign security camera requests to an appropriate Village committee for review to determine need and for a holistic and comprehensive solution across the Village.
6. Assign MRC request for additional board members to an appropriate Village committee for review.
7. Endorse Parks Advisory Boards preliminary plan for 2026.
8. Accept and endorse the 2026 spending request (detailed on the attached report) from the Mariemont Parks Advisory Board. Requests will be included in the 2026 budget plan for review and discussion.
9. Endorse and forward the nominations for the Parks Advisory Board for 2026 and 2027 to the mayor for review.

A majority of the Committee approved:

1. The 2026 spending requests from the Mariemont Racquet Club.

Review of report and potential requests of the South 80 Trails, Garden, and Park Advisory Board was deferred. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.

Solicitor McTigue said he does not make policy. If Council wants to have a three-year contract for the Tennis Pro that is their decision, but his recommendation would be a two-year contract. The contract should have a provision for either party to get out of the contract. Mr. York said the contract did include said provision, but realized the contract included in the packet did not include the language. It was clarified that the Tennis Pro provided proof of liability insurance and should be part of the contract. Mr. Van Stone noted that the pool revenues do not include the services of the Service Department staff. Fiscal Officer Rankin said the \$7140 budget request for the Racquet Club will need to be included in the 2026 budget. There are not enough funds allocated in the 2025 budget. After further discussion, Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to amend the report to delete the word "2025" in the spending request line and move the windscreen purchase to "2026"; on roll call five ayes, one nay (Dr. Lewis dissenting). Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the amended report. On roll call; five ayes, one nay (Dr. Lewis dissenting).

Dr. Lewis said she did not feel it is appropriate for Mr. Bartlett and Mr. York to be voting on tennis issues. They are vested members and find it a conflict of interest. Mr. Bartlett said the issue was reviewed by Solicitor McTigue last year and found that it was not a conflict of interest. Mr. Ayer said he attended a webinar regarding ethics training. Conflicts

of interest will come up – they are not illegal, improper and not unusual. It is illegal to act on something that is a direct conflict.

Miscellaneous:

*Leaf Collection will end December 2025

*Permanent Improvement Meeting will be held on Monday November 24, 2025, at 5:45 with the Regular Council Meeting beginning immediately thereafter

*The December Council Meeting will be held on Monday December 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Resolutions:

“To Confirm the Reappointment of Michael Lockhart as Swim Pool Manager for Calendar Years 2026 and 2027; and to Set Compensation” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Andrew Seger as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Steve Spooner as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Mark Glassmeyer as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint John Fakes as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Jon Morgan as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Barb Whittaker as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Marianne Prue as a voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Dave Middleton as Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Scott Remer as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Larry Gray as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Seve Pipkin as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Appoint John Scholtz as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2025 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Mike Sunderman as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Tom Eckardt as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint John McIlwrath as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Greg Wells as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Tina Getter as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Douglas Zemke as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Brad Lockhart as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Hilary Lepa as A member of the Mariemont Racquet Club Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Linda S. Bartlett as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Kim Beach as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club Board for the Calendar Year 2026” had a first reading. It was noted Ms. Beach should be reappointed for two years. The legislation will be changed to reflect the years 2026 and 2027.

“A Resolution Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Ohio Public Works Commission” had a second reading. Engineer Ertel said the application has been applied for, and the legislation is due in January 2026.

“A Resolution to Rescind the Commercial Local Board of Building Appeals (LLBA) Certification and To Direct Appeals to the State of Ohio Board of Building Appeals (OBBA); and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Van Stone 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 reading. Building Official Holloway explained in 2001 the Village set up an Appeals Board that would handle both residential and commercial appeals. In 2016 the residential appeals were given to Hamilton County. A request was made by the State of Ohio to update the legislation to include that commercial building permit appeals will go through the State. The Resolution had a third reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-49-25 was adopted.

“To Accept the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor; and To Declare Emergency” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second reading. Fiscal Officer Rankin said the Hamilton County Auditor sends the millage rates the Village needs to pass legislation confirming and certifying the rates. The Resolution had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-50-25 was adopted.

Mr. Bartlett distributed a handout to complete and return to him by Monday October 20, 2025. This is to access and rank the Permanent Improvement projects for the upcoming Committee of the Whole Meeting. He asked that Department Heads complete the survey as well.

Mr. York asked for an update on the Manual Traffic Controls related to our street signage. Solicitor McTigue said he sent his findings to Mayor Brown.

Ordinances:

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer