Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
November 10, 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. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the minutes as written for the Council Meeting October 27, 2025. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Bartlett asked to add that the State of Ohio repaves Wooster Pike every 20 years and change "predict" to "protect" under developing a strategy for ranking projects. Mr. Ayer asked to change the wording to "Emery Foundation" from Mary Emery Foundation. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to amend the minutes for the Committee of the Whole Minutes from October 27, 2025. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the amended minutes. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: October 2025 Monthly Report

*From Building Official Holloway: October 2025 Monthly Report. He commented that the last month was busy with rental inspections, permits and applications. He estimates having a total of 200 rental inspections by the end of the year.

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Matt Tripepi, 3865 Settle Road, was given permission to address Council. He is concerned with the empty commercial storefronts along the square. Currently there are five empty spaces including the medical building, eye care, and the elves. He asked what Council or the Mayor can do to find the retail owners to bring in more tax revenue dollars. The empty storefronts are an eyesore. Mayor Brown said the elf display will happen this year. It is his understanding that starting next year they will move downtown. The storefront, including the old bank that houses the elves to Mio's will be undergoing a lot of electrical and plumbing renovation. The space is not at this point ready to rent. He believed he had an excellent tenant, but Mr. Spinnenweber did not feel it was the appropriate tenant. The medical building is owned by an absentee owner. He has had loose conversations numerous times with him. It raises the issue of commercial space along the main street. He is aware of legislation nationwide that can bring pressure on landlords to not let prime retail on the main streets stand vacant for a period of time. Mariemont does not currently have such legislation. It was discussed and the Mayor referred the matter of Vacant Building Enforcement Program to the Planning and Zoning & Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Michael Vilardo, Madisonville Education & Assistance Cener (MEAC), was granted permission to address Council. This program works with pre-school children and their parents to help the children learn how to read. They work with children 16 months to four years of age. They also provide a food pantry for 23 families. He invited everyone to the Cocktails & Conversations on November 13, 2025, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to learn more about their organization. They serve the 45227-zip code, Oakley, Hyde Park, Mt. Lookout.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. Bartlett confirmed that Waldorf School was paying 50% of the parking lot restriping. Mayor Brown said yes their will be forthcoming participation.

Mr. Ayer was not aware that the cost of a translator in Mayor's Court was the responsibility of the Village.

Mr. York noted that the payment to Grainger for the keypad should be paid for out of the Pickleball Fund.

Mr. Ayer 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 November 3rd at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers. Present at the meeting were Health & Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair), Matthew Ayer (Member), and Mayor Bill Brown.

The purpose of the Committee meeting was to:

1. Review 2025 results, 2026 planning and spending requests from the South 80 Trails, Gardens, and Park Advisory Board.
2. Review the proposal for the installation of a Police Memorial on the Murray Path on the east side of the intersection with Plainville Road.

Thank you to the members of the South 80 Trails, Garden, and Park Advisory Board, Steve Spooner, John Fakes, Andy Seeger, Jon Morgan, and Mark Glassmeyer. The Committee acknowledges and recognizes your contributions as stewards of the south 80 trails and gardens. We thank you for your dedication and service.

The Committee unanimously agreed to:

1. Endorse the 2026 plan for the South 80 Gardens and Trails as proposed by the South 80 Trails, Gardens, and Park Advisory Board.
2. Accept the spending requests (see detail on attached report) from the South 80 Trails, Gardens, and Park Advisory Board. The request for the $1,000 for a lawn mower was reclassified as a miscellaneous budget request. The H&R Committee will work with the Maintenance Department and the S8TGPAB for alternative solutions citing Village liability concerns.
3. Accept the contract to provide tilling and maintenance services for $1,000 for 2026. Mayor Brown was given a copy of the contract and agreed to execute for 2026.
4. Accept the recommendation from the S8TGPAB to increase the board by one member. H&R Committee requested the ordinance be updated to five but no more than seven members. Mayor Brown agreed to the change and the ordinance will be updated by Solicitor McTigue. The Committee will also update the MRC board with the same language.
5. Endorse the concept of the installation of a Police Memorial on the Murray Path on the east side of the intersection with Plainville Road.

The Committee acknowledges that an endorsement of the Police Memorial is not a commitment to funding resources or an approval of design features. The Committee recommends that the Village endorse and cooperate as a key stakeholder of the proposed project. The Police Memorial as proposed is placed on Village property. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Mr. York said Dave Kubicki, Trustee Columbia Township, will be heading the project. The same designer who worked on their new community building will draw up the renderings. The design pictures are the second pass at the design. No decision has yet been made on what the final design of the memorial will look like. It is a joint project between the Village of Mariemont and Columbia Township.

Dr. Lewis said the structure is subject to approval from the ARB as stated in our Code of Ordinances. She asked that the report be amended to include that language. Mr. York said the purpose of the report is when Columbia Township is raising funds they can say that the Village of Mariemont is aligned and on board. Mayor Brown stated that he had discussions with Mr. Kubicki, the artist and the landscaping company that the design would be subject to review by the ARB. The next big step would be to fundraise. There will be no Village funds used to pay for this project. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

The Health & Recreation Committee met on Thursday November 6th at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers. Present at the meeting were Health & Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair), Matthew Ayer (Member), and Mayor Bill Brown.

The purpose of the Committee meeting was to:

3. Review the bids to complete the construction of the center section of the pergola at the Concourse

The Committee reviewed the progress of the replacement of the cedar pergola at the Concourse. Through volunteer efforts, led by mayor Brown with the assistance of the Maintenance Department, the east and west wings of the pergola have been completed.

The Mayor reviewed the three bids that the Village received for this project. The Committee also reviewed appropriated funds for 2025 for the Concourse project.

The Committee unanimously agreed to:

6. Accept the bid from "All Decked Out" for the installation of the center section of the Concourse pergola for an amount not to exceed $40,000. We request that the bid be amended to include the sealing of the cedar before installation and the repair and installation pillar cap brackets where necessary.
7. Have the Mayor instruct the Fiscal Officer to utilize funds from the original $74,000 appropriated in 2025 and supplement from available Permanent Improvement funds to complete the project in 2025.
8. Mayor will prepare a spending request for $40,000 to be reviewed at the November 10th Village Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Mayor Brown said he checked with All Decked Out regarding the sealing. They contract out the sealing work. He is still in the process of reaching out to those companies for estimates. He hopes to have those estimates by the next Council meeting. He believes the pergola work will start in late December. Most sealant requires the temperature to be above 50-55 degrees – it will be done in spring 2026. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Safety Committee

The Safety Committee (SC) met on Friday October 31 at 3:30 PM in the Municipal Building. Present were SC members Matthew Ayer (Chair); Rob Bartlett (Member); Randy York (Member); and Mayor Brown.

Mr. Ayer presented information indicating that the Racing/Lap Pool at our municipal pool facility is failing and will be due for replacement soon, likely in the next few years.

See description amended to this report.

After discussion, the Safety Committee recommended:

- The Pool Commission review regional pool facilities, and our pool's use, then develop a plan to replace the lap pool, considering various options along with their order-of-magnitude cost estimates. Options include:
  - Replace lap pool with same footprint; continue to maintain existing family pool;
  - A "single pool" replacement option, in an L or T shape, with lap lanes/family swimming in a single pool; consider restoring diving facilities or other features in this option.
  - Other option(s), if applicable, after review of regional pools and consultation with pool experts.
- Council appropriate $20,000 in 2026 for renderings, construction drawings and permit-ready specifications for the option selected.
  - These documents will be useful in developing a funding plan, including presentations to potential donors.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Mr. Ayer has been in contact with Shamrock Enterprises. They build many of the municipal pools in Greater Cincinnati. The owner offered to meet with the Pool Commission and go over various different approaches. This report starts the planning process to be ready when we need to replace the pool, which is estimated to be 3-5 years. The pool is 60 years old and made of concrete. Concrete will eventually fail and absorb water over time. The expected life of a concrete pool is 50-60 years. It is visible that the sides are beginning to swell resulting in patching and repairs. The main pool was built earlier and is much sturdier. It was completely renovated approximately 30 years ago.

Mr. Van Stone wanted clarification that Council was not getting ahead of themselves by agreeing to appropriate money this evening. It was noted that the report states the money would be appropriated in 2026 if approved at the Permanent Improvement meeting in two weeks. The pool was listed as project to be defined. This level of detail was not provided.

Dr. Lewis suggested that this expenditure go through the prioritization process and see where it falls. She would like to have a community survey to see what would increase membership and utilization of the pool. She does not want Council to get ahead of themselves by guaranteeing to appropriate this money in 2026.

It was discussed that the request is to earmark the money for now. Once all the data is gathered it will be presented to Council as to what the renderings and options are desired. It will also get us ahead and not lose one or two years of the pool season.

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to change the word "appropriate" to "consider". On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to accept the amended report. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

<u>Public Works & Service Committee</u>

The Public Works & Service Committee met on November 3, 2025, at 5:00 PM. In attendance were Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Members Randy York and Rob Bartlett. Also in attendance was Mayor Bill Brown. The only item on the agenda was the selection of a contractor to perform the 2025 grinding of municipal sidewalks. A total of 14 concrete contractors were contacted concerning this project. Only two responded with quote for the grinding of 67 squares. Outdoor Living Innovations RIGID LLC quoted $15,075. KCK Construction replied with a bid of $6,100. KCK has paved several residential driveways in the Village and both the Building Department and a Village resident had no issues with the quality of the work. Mayor Brown suggested that we should not grind the sidewalks through the grass at the Concourse since they are scheduled for work in the next several years. This reduced the number of squares to be ground down to 60. After a brief discussion, Mr. York moved that we accept the bid of KCK Construction for a price not greater than $6,100. A lower price might be negotiated at the end of the work due to the reduction in number of squares to be ground. That motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM. Mr. Van Stone noted that the work would be done in 2025. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation of the Public Works & Service Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

<u>Miscellaneous:</u>

*Leaf Collection will end in December 2025. Please do not rake leaves into the street.

*Permanent Improvement Meeting will be held on Monday November 24, 2025, at 5:45 with the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting beginning immediately upon its conclusion.

*Village Offices will be Closed Thursday November 27, 2025, and Friday November 28, 2025, in Observation of Thanksgiving.

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

<u>Resolutions:</u>

"To Reappoint Barb Whittaker as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. <u>Resolution No. R-58-25 was adopted.</u>

“To Reappoint Larry Gray as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-59-25 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Marianne Prue as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-60-25 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Dave Middleton as Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-61-25 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Scott Remer as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-62-25 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Steve Pipkin as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-63-25 was adopted.

“To Appoint John Scholtz as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-64-25 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Mike Sunderman as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-65-25 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Tom Eckardt as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-66-25 was adopted.

“To Reappoint John McIlwrath as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-67-25 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Greg Wells as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 227” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-68-25 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Tina Getter as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-69-25 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Douglas Zemke as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-70-25 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Brad Lockhart as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-71-25 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Hilary Lepa as A member of the Mariemont Racquet Club Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-72-25 was adopted.

"To Reappoint Linda S. Bartlett as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-73-25 was adopted.

"To Reappoint Kim Beach as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club Board for the Calendar Year 2026 and 2027" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-74-25 was adopted.

"To Reappoint Matt Tripepi as a Member of the Mariemont Raquet Club Board for the Calendar Year 2026" had a second reading.

"To Confirm the Reappointment of David Russell as the Mariemont Racquet Club Board Professional and To Authorize Contract" had a first reading.

"To Increase the Tennis Fees for the 2026 Season" had a second reading. It was requested to change the title to read "Racquet Sports Fees".

"Supplemental Appropriations; and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mr. Bartlett 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. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-75-25 was adopted.

Ordinances:

"To Amend O-5-24 Mariemont Racquet Club Board; and To Increase Board Members from Five to Seven" had a first reading.

"To Amend Section 37.03 Parks Advisory Board of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances" had a first reading.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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William A. Brown, Mayor

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Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer