

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
August 24, 2026**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present was Mr. Ayer, Mrs. Brownknight, Mrs. Stock, Mr. Van Stone, and Mrs. Wells. Dr. Lewis arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to accept the minutes as written for August 10, 2026. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. (Dr. Lewis arrived after the vote)

Communications:

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Doug Zemke, 3901 West Street, was granted permission to address Council. Mr. Zemke, on behalf of MPF, reminded everyone that Taste of Mariemont is on Sunday. Nancy Saffron is the chair and has been working on organizing the event. Ten restaurants are participating, plus the Boy Scouts will have roasted corn. Mayor Brown will once again return as the “Master of cotton candy.” Ben James and the maintenance department, as well as Lisa Hopkins at The National Exemplar are key players in making sure this event comes together. The general consensus is that the new location last year was well-liked. Taste of Mariemont will begin at 4:30 and end at 7pm, a half-hour longer than in previous years. It is a wonderful opportunity to bring the community together.

Mrs. Casi Egli, 3718 Pleasant Street, was granted permission to address Council. She has talked to other families who are concerned about the new fencing at Dogwood Park. It ended up being longer and taller than it was before. She shared some photos with Council, to show the before and current fence. The fencing blocks views from the spectators and are sitting in the outfield to get a better view and is a safety issue. Mayor Brown referred the matter of the ballpark fencing to the Safety Committee.

Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Health and Rec.

The Health & Recreation Committee (HR) met on Wednesday August 19, 2026, at 4:30 PM in the Municipal Building. Present were HR members Matthew Ayer (Chair); Marcy Lewis (Member); Lila Wells (Member); Mayor Brown; Village Engineer Chris Ertel; Project Manager Rod Holloway; and residents Randy York, Casi Egli, Alicia Stock and Greg Wells.

Dogwood Park Parking Lot

Mr. Ayer opened the meeting. He reiterated objectives of the parking lot design: ensure accessibility and ADA compliance; enhance safety with a separate entrance and exit plus a drop-off zone for athletes and families; improve flow of traffic; and optimize parking capacity and efficiency within the footprint of the proposed lot.

Engineer Ertel presented color-rendered plan views of four options prepared by Choice One Engineering. He also recounted the layout change that had become necessary for the sidewalk after aligning the softball field and adapting to topography. These changes reduced the footprint available for a parking lot from the original plans.

Robust discussion ensued among the Committee, residents, Mayor, and Engineer concerning the functional and aesthetic aspects of the various options.

Mr. Ayer reviewed the Project Schedule and described the necessity to move forward at the upcoming 8/24/26 Council Meeting in order to construct the lot this Fall. Further delay would put us into spring construction and negatively impact the MRA baseball season.

Mr. Ayer put forth a motion, which passed unanimously to endorse a “hybrid” of Options 2B and 3 as follows:

- Entrance and ADA space as shown in 2B
- Angled parking, 16 ft aisles as shown in 2B
- Drop-off zone similar to as shown in 3
- Exit location as shown in 3
- Instruct Choice One to adjust the geometry of the pavement/stripping to optimize the number of spaces, expected to be approximately 12 or 13
- Contingent on approval of this final revised Plan at Council on 8/24/26.

Engineer Ertel agreed to expedite revised drawing preparation, ideally with the changes ready for Committee review Friday 8/21/26, with a contingency of midday 8/24/26.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Mr. Ayer stated that the rough cost is about \$100,000 and is 100% paid for with grants. There is enough currently in the Dogwood fund to front the costs, thanks in part to a donation from MPF. Mrs. Wells was pleased that they were able to add more green space between the sidewalk and parking lot and additional parking spaces. Mary Beth York raised concerns about the south exit across from a driveway. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone, to accept the report. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Finance

The Finance Committee met on August 19, 2026, at 1:02 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Members Dr. Marcy Lewis and Alicia Stock, Mayor Bill Brown, Joanee Van Pelt, and Karie Novesl, Client Executive for Hyland Administrative Services which administers the Ohio Plan for the Village.

The only item on the agenda was a review of the Village insurance policy for 2026-2027 from the Ohio Plan. The premium for 2025 was \$47,308 and the premium for 2026 will be \$54,393, a 15% increase. While the number of vehicles and the vehicle replacement cost have increased, a significant cause of the increase was the losses and potential losses over the previous 4 years. The Committee voted to recommend that the Council approve the Ohio Plan policy for 2026. The Ohio Plan has provided excellent service to the Village; however, it was recommended the Committee review insurance plans from other companies in April of 2027.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 PM.

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to accept the report. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*Village Offices will be closed in observation of Labor Day, Monday September 7, 2026.

Resolutions:

* “To Amend Resolution R-17-20; To Establish Court Costs as Authorized by Section 33.05 of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Mariemont” had a third reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight, to adopt the resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-38-26 was adopted.

*Resolution Authorizing Application and Working with the Ohio Public Works Commission” had a second reading.

*“To Appoint Jim Kelly as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a first reading.

*“To Renew Current Contract for the Following Kinds of Insurance: Real and Personal Property, Comprehensive General Liability, Business Automobile, and Other Coverages; To Pay Premiums; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis 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. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-39-26 was adopted.

Ordinances:

* “To Supplement Ordinance No. O-1-26 Annual Appropriation Ordinance” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone, to adopt the ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-13-26 was adopted.

Mr. Ayer complimented new pool manager Bill Pettifer on the transition and noted that he will be leaving for college. The Pool Commission has come up with a schedule to assist the pool staff through the end of the season.

Mrs. Brownknight reminded everyone that the opening night for the theatre is September 16.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer