

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
September 14, 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.

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to excuse the absence of Dr. Lewis. On roll call; five yes, no nays.

Minutes:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight, to accept the minutes as written for August 24, 2026. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: August 2026 Monthly Report. It was noted that the total runs are up from last year, partly due to the increase in mutual aid runs.

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: August 2026 Monthly Report.

*From Fiscal Officer Rankin: Financial Reports. She included three reports, including the cash flow detail by fund, revenue status report as of June 30, 2026, and appropriation status as of June 2026. She does not feel there are any anomalies that need to be addressed, but she is happy to meet one on one to discuss further. Council asked if there was a way to summarize the report to include spending/revenue data from year to year per department and the biggest expenses per departments. Fiscal Officer Rankin said she will work on one to present quarterly.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Mariemont Public Library, was granted permission to address Council. The Madeira branch is currently closed for HVAC repairs so the Mariemont branch has been much busier. She announced several upcoming event programs at the library including Mahjong, introduction to Tai Chi, Customer Appreciation Day. Detailed information is available on their website.

Mr. Jim Goetz, Member of the Parks Advisory Board, was granted permission to address Council. The Parks Advisory Board has established committees to work toward development of design plans for Hopkins and Dale Parks as part of the \$936,000 federal award for Mariemont Parks. They are requesting updates on the following items to allow them to move forward on the projects:

1. Are there results from the radar evaluation of Hopkins Park to determine if there are buried elements under the park?
2. Has the Request for Proposal for design work on Hopkins been approved for issuance?
3. Has the Village received input for HUD outlining the specific requirements to access the federal funds and the restrictions as to what the funds may be used for?

This information is critical to the Board's ability to move forward with the projects.

Mr. Ayer said he is hopeful to be updated on the information tomorrow afternoon and will share the information with Mr. Goetz and the Parks Advisory Board.

Pay the Bills:

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to pay the bills. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Health and Rec.

The Health & Recreation Committee (HR) met on Wednesday August 26, 2026, at 4:30 PM in the Municipal Building. Present were HR members Matthew Ayer (Chair); Marcy Lewis (Member); Lila Wells (Member); Mayor Brown; Mariemont Parks Advisory Board (MPAB) Members Tom Eckardt, Jim Goetz, Jim Kelly and Jerry Stephens; Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin; and residents Larry and Lynn Gray, Mike and Barb Whittaker, David Middleton, John Vago.

Concourse Master Planning

Mr. Ayer opened the meeting and briefly described the volunteer MPAB's advisory role to the Mayor and Council.

Tom Eckardt summarized the Master Planning Process and work to date by MPAB on the Concourse via a PowerPoint™ presentation. He described existing conditions. He presented a rendering depicting potential renovations to the Concourse that could include restoring vines on the pergola; removing broken/obsolete concrete walkway; converting existing asphalt driveway to a compacted aggregate walkway with removable, decorative bollards at each end for events or service access; improved drainage, irrigation and turf; opening the center area of the park with selective tree removal to restore the Charles Livingood vision; adding trees at the wings; selective limbing of hillside trees to enhance sight lines of the valley; a central, hardscaped hub with seating and a small fountain.

Lively discussion ensued concerning the pros and cons of the various potential changes, predominantly focused on the existing tree canopy.

Ms. Whittaker of the Tree Advisory Board recommended that we seek an evaluation from an arborist with the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification to assist in selecting trees to remove. Mr. Goetz expressed MPAB's desire to seek specific recommendations from the Hillside Trust before removing trees from the slope. Mr. Gray read his observations from a 6-hour visit to the park.

Mayor Brown expressed a desire to, in the near term, complete masonry repairs, treat the cedar on the pergola, remove trees that present an imminent danger to the restored pergola, and re-plant flowering vines. Fiscal Officer Rankin advised that there were some remaining funds in the 2026 Council-approved budget for Concourse repair work.

Mr. Eckardt and Mr. Goetz re-focused the discussion on the Master Planning Process and more specifically requested HR to advise whether to proceed with a public engagement process.

Mr. Ayer put forth a motion, which passed unanimously, that HR endorse MPAB proceeding with a thorough, transparent public engagement process as a next step in developing a Master Plan for the Concourse, including 1) outreach to residents nearest the park; 2) Town Crier article(s); 3) a flyer delivered to every village household describing the process and opportunity to comment; 4) Village email list; 5) a public meeting; and 6) posting resident comments on the village website. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Van Stone said he would like the master plan to include what the cost will be of the renovations and what maintaining those costs above the base line will cost the Village. Mr. Goetz said those concerns will be included in the report that will be submitted by the Parks Advisory Board. It will include details on maintenance costs and who will perform the maintenance. Mr. Van Stone said while he understands the desire to have water features in the parks, they are expensive to maintain. He would also like to see how much our maintenance costs will increase over the years with the proposals. Mrs. Stock asked if the plans for Ann Buntin Becker Park have yet gone through the public discussion process. Mr. Goetz said not yet. Mayor Brown said all decision on the parks design/priority will be a Council decision. Mrs. Brown knight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Van Stone asked that the matter of Roles of Pool Manager Consultant and Project Manager be removed from the Finance agenda.

Mayor Brown referred to the Finance Committee exploration of the purchase of a new chipper for the Service Department.

Miscellaneous:

*Village Offices will be closed in observation of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day Monday October 12, 2026

*Leaf Collection will begin Monday October 19, 2026, until January 4, 2027, with the brush route being suspended during this time. An article will be placed in the Town Crier with a tentative route schedule for this year.

*Beggar's Night will be Saturday October 31, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*Reopening of the Mariemont Theare will be Wednesday September 16, 2026. Traffic will be rerouted around the square beginning at 1:00 p.m. There will be food, drinks and many activities.

Resolutions:

* Resolution Authorizing Application and Working with the Ohio Public Works Commission" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution R-40-26 was adopted.

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

* "To Confirm the Reappointment of Christopher M. Ertel as Village Engineer for Calendar Years 2027 and 2028; and to Set Compensation" had a first reading.

* "To Appoint Casi Egli as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2027" had a first reading.

Ordinances:

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer