

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
April 13, 2026**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present was Mr. Ayer, Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Stock, Mr. Van Stone, and Mrs. Wells. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock, to excuse the absence of Mrs. Brownknight. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Minutes:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer, to accept the Council minutes as written from March 23, 2026. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: March 2026 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown noted that a gentleman came in to pay a citation and communicated with Sergeant Meucci and Chief Hines about how pleased he was with how Officer Hamiel conducted his traffic stop. He was very impressed by Officer Hamiel's professionalism.

*From Building Official Holloway: January 2026 and February 2026 Monthly Reports. Mayor Brown noted that compliance with permits is better than it has been. Building Official Holloway is available to answer questions and assist with permit applications.

Special guest Congressman Greg Landsman stopped in to present a grant check for \$936,000 to the Village for parks improvement projects. This will enable the Village to get across the finish line with some current projects and possibly start some new projects.

Former Councilmember Randy York was granted permission to address Council. He thanked Congressman Landsman for his encouragement and help in securing this grant for the Village.

Lisa Wharton, 3867 Homewood Road, was granted permission to address Council and spoke on behalf of the Mariemont Garden Club. They wished to convey their deep gratitude to Congressman Landsman for his work in bringing the Village the resources to renovate the Isabella Hopkins Park, located across from the library, and to the Village for its support of the Garden Club's work there. They are thrilled to know that their many years of work will be brought to fruition as a result of this grant. It has been the Garden Club's honor to care for the park over the last many decades, investing members' time, expertise, and physical labor, along with Garden Club funds and other donations. The Garden Club has prepared a concept plan, using the beloved children's book, The Secret Garden, as its aesthetic guide. They have prepared preliminary cost estimates, done initial interviews with prospective landscape advisors, received concept endorsements from the library and the Mariemont Preschool Parents Group, and prepared a draft Request for Proposal to be submitted for Village review. They are looking forward to a beautifully renovated Isabella Hopkins Park and extended an invitation to Congressman Landsman to pay a visit.

Jerry Stephens, 3709 Center Street, was granted permission to address Council. He thanked Congressmen Landsman on behalf of the Mariemont Parks Advisory Board. They are excited to partner with the Garden Club to assist with the renovations at Isabella Hopkins Park. He is especially excited about this particular park as he spent much of his childhood playing there. Their purpose is to create a vision of the park for the community with the goal of making it best in class.

Doug Zemke, Mariemont Preservation Foundation President, was granted permission to address Council. He extended his thank you to Congressman Landsman on behalf of MPF for the dollars coming their way for Dale Park and the Statuary.

Congressman Landsman stressed the importance of shared work and having something to build together. It is how we build community, trust, and friendships. This is a wonderful example of the power of shared work, and he appreciated being able to play even a tiny role in that. Mayor Brown noted it was a great presentation and that the grants make so

much possible for us in this Village. We are not exceedingly wealthy as a Village and these grants and donations make a lot possible for the community.

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: March 2026 Monthly Report

*From Service Superintendent James: March 2026 Monthly Report. Superintendent James noted that the citizen portal opened today on the website and most of the requests that have come in so far are about potholes. The Service Department will be working on potholes on Thursday. Mayor Brown congratulated Superintendent James on a job well done...the parks, green spaces, the Square, the mulching, keeping up with the grass; everything is looking great. Springtime is hustle time and the crew has been working through lunches and putting in extra hours to get the job done. They will be working with the Mariemont Preschool Parent Group to clean up the tot lot and trail area at Dogwood Park. Right now, they are hard at work to have everything looking nice for the Flying Pig and grand re-opening of Dogwood Park. Superintendent James expects everything to look pristine.

Permission to Address Council:

Doug Zemke, 3901 West Street, was granted permission to address Council. Mr. Zemke is President of Mariemont Preservation Foundation (MPF). MPF has hired Rosie Polter as its first Executive Director, effective April 1, 2026. Since its founding in 1980, MPF has relied primarily on hard-working volunteers to carry out its mission to preserve, protect, and promote the integrity and character of Mariemont. With the addition of Mrs. Polter, the organization will be better positioned to fulfill that mission and to have a positive and supportive impact within the Village. Rosie has a background in historic preservation and with nonprofit organizations. She has worked as a historic preservation consultant for the last ten years and formerly held roles with the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. She earned bachelor's degrees in anthropology and archeology, with a certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Cincinnati. She went on to earn a master's degree in Public Administration from Northern Kentucky University. She has been working part-time at MPF as the Director of Development since August 2024. Ms. Polter looks forward to working with the Village.

Mandi Beecroft, librarian at the public library in Mariemont, was granted permission to address Council. She discussed some of the upcoming programs at the library – May 5 from 4-5 “Make a Gift for Mom,” May 12 from 4-5 “Cincinnati Parks: Cincinnati Fossils Presentation,” and Saturday May 15 from 2-3 there are some openings for their “Heart Healthy Cooking Program for Adults.”

Mayor Brown asked Village Engineer Chris Ertel for an update on the paving project. Miami Road will be closed for repairs on Monday, April 20. Muchmore should be open by the 17th and will serve as the detour route. The work should only take one day. The rest of the contract will pick up in June, after school is out. We will have three or four streets going, plus whatever we can add.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Health and Recreation Committee

The Health & Recreation Committee (HR) met on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 4:00 PM in the Municipal Building. Present were HR members Matthew Ayer (Chair); Marcy Lewis (Member); Lila Wells (Member); Mayor Brown; Pool Commission Members Terry Donovan and Rick Kay; MPF Executive Board Members Doug Zemke and Biff Black; Councilmember Bob Van Stone and resident Pat Van Stone.

Mr. Ayer introduced Mr. Kay as a new Member of the Pool Commission (PC) and described his qualifications as a CPA, and his expected future role in assisting the PC with financial planning and analysis.

Mr. Ayer and Mr. Donovan presented the 2026 Operations Plan and described the updates/improvements planned for the season, particularly in restoring the pool chairs and continuing upgrades to the pool house. After discussion, HR unanimously agreed to recommend the PC's Operations Plan for 2026 to Council.

Mr. Zemke described MPF's longstanding desire to preserve the Dale Park Statuary. Mr. Ayer described the research into current technologies to preserve limestone statuary and provided a summary report and quotation from the conservators at McKay Lodge (Oberlin, OH) to clean and treat the Statuary. After discussion, HR unanimously recommended spending up to \$30,000 to clean, repair and treat the Statuary, and clean, repair and seal the concrete base, pending satisfactory recommendations from conservators and/or users of the methods recommended by McKay Lodge.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Mr. Ayer noted that one item that he forgot to enter into the minutes was the \$30,000 that we are spending was actually transferred over to the Village from MPF as the first installment going into the Dale Park fund. Legislation tonight will create a capital fund project for the \$30,000 to be used only for Dale Park.

Mr. Van Stone has not seen the details of the operations plan but the cost is \$17,000 this year and was \$33,000 last year. There are fewer items to do but it is a 60 year old facility so things may come up that require attention. Mr. Ayer discussed the plan to refurbish 20 of the 84 chaise lounges and will purchase four additional chairs that are more designed for seniors. The flooring will have trim added, wall paint will be touched up, interior doors will be painted, benches in the ladies room will be refinished, and some other minor repairs will be made. Pool manager Mike Lockhart will touch up the lap pool. The ice cream freezer will be replaced as the old one broke.

Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to accept the recommendations of the Health and Recreation Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on March 25, 2026, at 1:00 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Members Dr. Marcy Lewis and Alicia Stock, Mayor Bill Brown, Supervisor Ben James, Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin, Chief Rick Hines, and Zoning Officer Rod Holloway.

The first item on the agenda was consideration of the staffing levels in the Service Department. Supervisor James presented a review of the work items performed by Service Department personnel by month. The current staffing levels of the Service Department cannot adequately support core work, special projects, and emergencies. Some work is not getting done. Even with the contributions of a part-time employee for the last 8 months of 2025, there remains the need for a full-time employee. There was a wide-ranging discussion including park maintenance, needed certifications (playground safety certification to be completed in October), tree work, and Dogwood Park maintenance.

In 2025, the Village expenses (including salary and fringes) for the part-time Service Department employee was \$20,804 for 8 months. Mrs. Rankin has reported that the upper bound cost for a full-time employee is \$79,400. Based on these numbers, the additional expense to the village as compared to the 2025 part-time expense will be \$46,548 in 2026 and \$58,596 in 2027. Mrs. Rankin noted the Council has already passed the 2026 appropriation which included these expenses.

The Chair moved that the existing part-time position in the Service Department be transitioned to a full-time position at an hourly salary of \$28.50 per hour. This was seconded by Mrs. Lewis and was unanimously approved. The additional employee in the Maintenance Department will require Council to amend existing legislation.

The second agenda item was consideration of the purchase of a new Police Department vehicle. Chief Hines reported that he found a 2025 demonstrator vehicle for a purchase price of \$64,403 which is several thousand dollars less than a new vehicle. Chief Hines also reported that he can get the remaining work including detailing for a total price not to exceed \$70,000. He proposed that the car be purchased with \$60,000 previously appropriated to the Permanent Improvement fund and \$10,000 from the Alcohol Enforcement and Education Fund. Mrs. Lewis moved to purchase the vehicle using the funding approach recommended by Chief Hines. Mrs. Stock seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The final agenda item was consideration of increasing the limit on the Mayor's discretionary spending limit which is currently \$5,000. Years ago, the limit was \$50,000 and the Council reduced the limit to \$5,000. The costs of emergency repairs (roofs, boilers, etc.) have increased, coming closer to the limit causing the Mayor to request an increase. After some discussion, the Chairperson recommended an increase to \$10,000 which would be able to cover emergency

expenditures, while still providing Council oversight over large expenditures. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Mr. Ayer asked if there would be legislation to increase the Mayor's spending limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Legislation will be drafted after the committee report is passed. Mr. Ayer was impressed with the work planning worksheet that Superintendent James shared with him. Mayor Brown noted that the iWorq software was launched today on the website and is an attempt to increase efficiency and gives the residents the opportunity to directly submit work requests. The requests can be assigned to Service Department employees and tracked. Mr. Van Stone recognized that more work is always being added for the Service Department and we should all be conscious of that.

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis, to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Economic Development, Planning and Zoning Committee

The Economic Development, Planning, and Zoning Committee met on Thursday, March 26 to discuss two topics:

1. Clear up inconsistencies with our current zoning code
2. Discuss the possibility of utilizing Green Umbrella's free summer fellowship program

Present at the meeting were committee members Marcy Lewis, Alicia Stock, Mayor Bill Brown, Councilperson Matt Ayer, Building Administrator Rod Holloway, Green Umbrella Interim Executive Director Van Sullivan and another Mariemont resident.

The meeting started as Rod Holloway outlined several aspects of the zoning code that need to be corrected. Some examples of these inconsistencies include institutions in a residential zoning area, lack of proper zoning for the Old Town Square, lack of Residence D, and an inaccurate zoning map of the Village (ours is from 1942). It is relevant to note that Rod also had previously contacted Hamilton County shared services regarding the model zoning code and while it doesn't address our current needs, it may be worthwhile to consider for future updates.

He also wants to digitize Mariemont's zoning map. The work will cost approximately 15-20K. Currently two bids have been obtained. One from McBride, Dale, Clarion and the other from Zone X. The Committee unanimously voted to approve the project up to but not to exceed 20K and to allow the Mayor and Rod to decide which bid to accept. Van Sullivan of Green Umbrella then presented a comprehensive overview of Green Umbrella as an organization and its summer fellowship program. The fellowship program is free to the community and provides an intern who will work 40 hours per week and be supervised by Green Umbrella staff. The program includes one-year free membership in Green Umbrella. Alicia Stock agreed to be the Mariemont point of contact.

Several projects were discussed as possibilities to address: including the stability of the Miami Bluff Hillside, the ideal configuration for an updated recycling shed behind the Municipal building and increasing recycling in the schools. It was suggested to have a broader meeting with the Economic Development, Planning & Zoning committee members, a representative from Green Umbrella, the Mayor, as well representatives from the Park Board, Tree Board, South 80 board and any other relevant parties to brainstorm ideas for areas to be included in the Fellow's SOW. The ultimate list will be subject to the approval of Council. The committee voted unanimously to recommend to Council that Mariemont join Green Umbrella free of charge for one year and to accept a Green Umbrella fellow for the summer of 2026.

Mrs. Stock attended a women's leadership conference through the Cincinnati Foundation and met Van Sullivan in person who was a speaker on sustainability. Green Umbrella is a non-profit organization that has a vast connection of municipalities, various sustainability groups, and their main mission is to prepare communities for climate change – food stability, flooding, and landslides, which is where we landed on the Miami Bluff hillside. Mrs. Stock also serves as the president of Sustainable Mariemont and discussed the 10-week fellowship program with Van Sullivan. The Village will receive resources from Green Umbrella, and the fellow also has a network to pull resources from to help with whatever projects the Village decides to focus on with their assistance. Mayor Brown suggested we use their help on the "shed"

behind the municipal building where the composting bins are located. The fellow can help the Village determine what concerns the Village can address, research the issues, look into funding opportunities, etc.

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone, to accept the recommendations of the Planning and Zoning & Economic Development Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

- * Memorial Day Parade will be Monday, May 25, 2026
- * Village offices will be closed in observation of Memorial Day on Monday, May 25, 2026
- * The Regular Council Meeting May 25th will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 6:30pm

Resolutions:

“Resolution Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Van Stone. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution R-22-26 was adopted.

“To Appoint Nina Iredale as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club Board for the Calendar Year 2026” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Alvaro Pasquel as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a second reading.

“Resolution Creating a New Capital Project Fund for Dale Park Restoration and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mrs. Stock moved to suspend the rules and allow for a second and third reading, seconded by Mr. Van Stone. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The resolution was read a second and third time. Mayor Brown reminded Council that this is the \$30,000 that is being moved over for Dale Park. Mr. Ayer moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Wells. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Dr. Lewis moved to evoke the emergency clause, seconded by Mrs. Stock. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution R-23-26 was adopted.

“To Appoint Greg Wells as a Member of the Architectural Review Board to Fill the Unexpired Term of Tina Getter for the Calendar Years of 2026 & 2027; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Van Stone moved to suspend the rules and allow for a second and third reading, seconded by Mrs. Stock. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The resolution was read a second and third time. Dr. Lewis moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Van Stone. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved to evoke the emergency clause, seconded by Mrs. Stock. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution R-24-26 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“To Amend O-3-26 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Increase Payment for Employees; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Ayer moved to suspend the rules and allow for a second and third reading, seconded by Mrs. Wells. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The ordinance was read a second and third time. Mr. Ayer moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Van Stone. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mrs. Wells moved to evoke the emergency clause, seconded by Mrs. Stock. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance O-4-26 was adopted.

“To Supplement Ordinance No. O-1-26 Annual Appropriation Ordinance; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mrs. Wells moved to suspend the rules and allow for a second and third reading, seconded by Mr. Van Stone. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The ordinance was read a second and third time. Mrs. Wells moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Van Stone. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mrs. Wells moved to evoke the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Van Stone. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance O-5-26 was adopted.

Mr. Van Stone requested that the three items in the Finance Committee be removed from the agenda. Mr. Ayer requested that Dale Park Rehabilitation Plan and the 2026 Operations Plan for the Pool be removed from the Health and Recreation Committee. Dr. Lewis requested that the items about the Zoning Code Review Expenditure and Green Umbrella Fellowship be removed from Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development. Mayor Brown referred the salary issues of

Allison Uhrig and Mike Evanchyk to the Finance Committee. Mrs. Stock reminded Mayor Brown to add the dog ordinance to the Safety Committee and review the truck signage.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer