Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
May 26, 2026

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present was Mr. Ayer, Mrs. Brownknight, Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Stock, Mr. Van Stone and Mrs. Wells.

Minutes:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to approve the minutes as written for May 11, 2026. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. (Mr. Ayer abstained)

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: April 2026 Monthly Report

*From Building Official Holloway: April 2026 Monthly Report

*From Building Official Holloway: Spending request for replacement of Fire Bay roof (not to exceed $40,000). The expense will be paid from two separate funds in the Permanent Improvement Fund. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to approve the spending request. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: Spending request for five-year scheduling software (not to exceed $13,794.92). Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to approve the spending request. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

The Safety Committee report was read due to the number of residents who wished to address Council regarding the dog Ordinance.

Safety Committee

Date: May 12, 2026

The Safety Committee met on Tuesday May 12th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the Municipal Building. Present was Safety Committee members Alicia Stock (Chair), Bob Van Stone, and Matthew Ayer; Police Chief Rick Hines; Lt. Nick Pittsley; and Mariemont Resident Colleen Sarna.

Agenda Item: Dog Ordinances

The Committee reviewed two dog ordinance revision drafts by Village Solicitor Ed McTigue after an off-leash dog attack incident involving a child near Ann Buntin Becker Park. The first ordinance would require dogs to be leashed in all public areas of Mariemont, and the second would allow off-leash dogs in the South 80 Acres. After much deliberation, the Committee agreed to move forward with the drafted version allowing dogs in the South 80 Acres. Chief Hines and Lt. Pittsley agreed that the Mariemont Police Department would manage the permitting process. Alicia Stock motioned that the Committee ask Ed McTigue to make the following edits to the proposed ordinance, to be presented to full Council at the upcoming 5/26 meeting with emergency legislation requested, with Ed retaining final authority over the legal drafting. The Committee unanimously approved the following edits:

- Change section A(c) to read: Any responsible dog owner with no record of violations who wishes their animal to run off leash must have it registered with the Village of Mariemont and pay a registration fee. Registration requirements and records will be maintained by the Mariemont Police Department.

- Change section A(5) to include liability for dogs that are also on-leash but not controlled by owner: The owner or keeper of an animal described herein ~~who permits it to run at large in violation of this section,~~ is liable for all damages caused by such animal upon the premises of another without reference to the fence which may enclose such premises. (R.C. § 951.10)
- Ensure animal or owner displays a valid Village-issued ID Tag (to be managed and administered by the police department, suggested one-time fee of $50 with flexibility in the ordinance for the police department to make changes to the fee amount as needed)
- Add authority for the Chief of Police to revoke a permit for cause
- Add no dogs allowed in the enclosed Tot Lot area of Dogwood Park (to match current signage)

It was also discussed that the Safety Committee Chair will do the following if the new ordinance is approved by Council:

- Ask Ed McTigue and Ted Brown to recommend permanent signage wording at the South 80 entrance, the South 80 Gardens, the public parking lot by the Mariemont Pool, Ann Buntin Becker Park, Dogwood Park (Park Rules Signage), as well as a recommendation on permanent or temporary signage to be placed in Patriot's Park and the Concourse.
- Ask Rod Holloway for a map defining the South 80 acres for use in the Police Department's permit communication
- Request that Steve Spooner help communicate the new ordinance to current and future members of the South 80 Garden Plots

Matt Ayer suggested that the Committee should allow the full three readings for the new ordinance to give residents time to bring any concerns and input to Council. Alicia Stock recommended that the ordinance be passed on an emergency basis to remove the serious safety concern that dogs (including the ones involved in the recent attack) are still allowed off leash in our public parks where young children are present. Bob Van Stone suggested that we present the legislation on an emergency basis but attempt to widely publicize and encourage public input prior to the full council meeting on 5/26. The Committee unanimously agreed to this approach.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Katherine Mace, 6639 Elm Street, was granted permission to address Council. She asked why the dogs who attacked were still alive. Chief Hines said that decision would need to come from the Hamilton County Dog Warden and through the court/judge. Both dog owners were cited. She suggested dogs go to Armleder Park where they are permitted to run off leash. She will change her route if she sees a dog is not leashed.

Ms. Jaqueline Dovale, 7018 Hiawatha, was granted permission to address Council. She clarified that the only place dogs will be allowed off leash is in the South 80 Park as long as they have a permit issued by the Mariemont Police Department. She worries about dogs going to other areas such as the Trolley Line Park and the high school upper-level practice field. It is upsetting to see dogs off leash. Mayor Brown said this ordinance will allow the Police Department to do something regarding dogs off leash – right now they cannot. Dr. Lewis said the high school is private property and not in our jurisdiction or control.

Ms. Elizabeth Ross, 7015 Wooster Pike, was granted permission to address Council. She voiced concern regarding a man in a truck that goes to the high school property and tosses ball. It was recommended to reach out to the Superintendent or High School Principal and bring it to the school's attention.

Ms. Amanda Ross, 6619 Elm, was granted permission to address Council. She is supportive of the legislation requiring all dogs to be on a leash in all public spaces within the Village particularly around playgrounds and parks. She has a daughter who is afraid of dogs since they moved to the Village 8 years ago

when there were two dogs that attacked each other. While most dogs in our Village would not inflict harm she believes we need to protect all residents and guests to the Village from the very small percentage of dogs that might become attackers. She is supportive of establishing an area in the South 80 park for dogs to run off leash, but she would strongly prefer that it be completely fenced. Unfortunately, if dogs are allowed to be off leash there, her family will not be able to enjoy it.

Mr. Jeff Harmon, 3739 Indianview Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. He is supportive of the dog ordinance. As a parent of two young children, he believes the less open space available for unleashed dogs the better. He is a doctor who has seen the effects of these kinds of attacks many times, they are not pretty and often very horrendous. All breeds of dogs are capable of a vicious attack and it only takes once. He questioned if we are weighing the comfort and safety of children versus the convenience of dog owners.

Mrs. Brownknight commented that the language of the report was confusing as to when a dog is on a leash and is approached by an unleashed dog and then engages. She was concerned if the owner of the leashed dog was then liable. Mayor Brown said House Bill 247 was recently passed. The intent of the legislation is to update the State of Ohio's outdated and inadequate dangerous vicious dog laws. It provides Dog Wardens with the tools needed to keep our communities safe and to hold irresponsible dog owners accountable. It does include language which protects dogs that are defending themselves. Council discussed the matter and it was determined that the discussion should be focused on the ordinance not the report. (It was later established when reading the ordinance that it did not reference the same verbiage as the report and the concern was no longer an issue).

Mrs. Brownknight asked for the Committee's thought process behind allowing dogs off leash in the South 80 for those who do not believe dogs should be off leash anywhere in the Village. Mrs. Stock said there was much discussion in the Safety Committee after Dr. Lewis's suggestion to look into limited hours for dogs to be off leash. The hours would be posted so visitors would know if dogs could be running. There are no close playgrounds and not really a place where kids are encouraged to play. The Committee felt some comfort knowing the dogs would be vetted through the police department permitting process. Stricter penalties and tiered penalties are included in the legislation. Residents voiced concerns that dogs can attack adults too and echoed support for the area to allow dogs to run to be contained for everyone's protection. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Ms. Colleen Sarna, 6608 Wooster Pike, was granted permission to address Council. The current ordinance does state that one can defend themselves if attacked. She appreciates the robust conversation and the work of the Safety Committee. Mr. Ayer commented that his hope is that owners have a clear understanding of what they are signing off on when they register their dogs. They are signing off to be a responsible dog owner. He does not believe the irresponsible dog owners will want to have any part of paying a permit fee and subjecting themselves to fines. Chief Hines said the verbiage for the permitting process will be run through our solicitor.

Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

*See Safety Report Above

Planning and Zoning & Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development, Planning & Zoning Committee met on Tuesday May 20th, 2026, at 11:35 a.m. in the Municipal Building. Present were Economic Development, Planning & Zoning Committee members Dr. Marcy Lewis (Chair), Alicia Stock (Member); Mayor Bill Brown; Green Umbrella Interim Executive

Director Van Sullivan; Green Umbrella Local Government Program Manager Jamiya Barnett; and several Mariemont residents.

Agenda Item: Green Umbrella Fellowship Projects

The Committee discussed a list of possible project options for the Green Umbrella Fellow to work on during the 10-week fellowship with the Village of Mariemont. After discussion and feedback from Green Umbrella representatives and Mariemont residents, Alicia Stock proposed that the Committee prioritize projects with the greatest need for extensive research, resources, and funding. Mrs. Stock motioned that the Committee recommend the following projects to Council:

Hillside Stabilization – Including adjacencies to Miami Bluff, Waldorf & MHS. Will also include research on invasive species eradication, native plantings, and preserving the existing tree canopy.

Waste Diversion – Project to include creating a recommendation for trash and recycling receptacle solutions in Village parks, Village-wide composting options, and a thorough site assessment of the municipal shed, including funding, utilization, and volunteer planning.

Education & Engagement - Fellow to collaborate with Sustainable Mariemont and the Village to strengthen sustainability efforts in local restaurants and multi-unit housing. Dr. Lewis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Van Sullivan explained that Green Umbrella has strong databases and precedents for many of these projects, which should be accomplishable within the 10-week fellowship period. Multiple communities are also undertaking similar hillside stabilization projects, allowing for shared resources and coordinated efforts. The Village will also have access to a regional fellow working on the Green & Healthy Schools initiative. Ms. Sullivan also stated that the Village of Mariemont has access to Green Umbrella resources to explore additional topics as part of our 25 Communities Project Leading Membership. The Health & Recreation Committee could reach out to Green Umbrella separately to research non-toxic turf management and pesticide solutions. The Village could also contact Jimaya Barnett to request support on other topics not chosen, including building benchmarking, clean energy recommendations, and electric vehicle assessment. The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

The Fellow will be reporting to Mrs. Stock and Mayor Brown. Any and all recommendations from this follow-up will go through the Planning and Zoning & Economic Development Committee. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning & Economic Development Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*The Budget Hearing will be held on June 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. with the regular Council Meeting beginning upon its conclusion and/or at 6:30 p.m.

*Village Fireworks will be held on Saturday July 4, 2026, at dusk.

*Village Offices will be closed in observation of Independence Day Friday July 3, 2026.

*Mayor Brown thanked the Flag Brocade volunteers Tom Walsh, Scott Hamlin, Randy York and Kim Beach for putting the flags throughout the Village for Memorial Day.

Resolutions:

"To Amend Resolution R-12-82; To establish the Outstanding Citizen Award" had a third reading. Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-29-26 was adopted.

Ordinances:

"To Amend Ordinance O-18-18 Code Section 31.03(Mayor's Spending Authority) of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances had a third reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-8-26 was adopted.

"To Supplement Ordinance No. O-1-26 Annual Appropriation Ordinance; and To Declare Emergency" had a third first reading. Dr. Lewis 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 Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dt. Lewis to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No O-9-26 was adopted.

"To Amend Section 90.01 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances; and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second reading and third reading. Mrs. Brownknight was satisfied with the language. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-10-26 was adopted.

It is hopeful to have the permitting language prepared and the signage ordered and installed as soon as possible, especially in the playground parks areas.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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William A. Brown, Mayor

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Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer