

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
June 22, 2026**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present was Mr. Ayer, Mrs. Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Stock, Mr. Van Stone and Mrs. Wells. Mrs. Brownknight arrived at 6:25 p.m.

Minutes:

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Van Stone to approve the minutes as written for June 8, 2026. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Mr. Ayer and Mrs. Wells abstained due to their absence)

Communications:

*From Mariemont Preservation Foundation: Letter Dated June 11, 2026, re: Sponsor Fourth of July Fireworks Donation \$4,000. Mayor Brown thanked MPF for contributing towards what is always a fantastic show. A banner will be erected soon. It was suggested that an email go to those on the distribution list to ask for donations to help with the \$7500 cost.

*From Building Official Holloway: May 2026 Monthly Report

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Randy York, 6767 Wooster Pike, was granted permission to address Council. He is a former member of the Mariemont Recreation Association (MRA). He was blessed to have coached baseball and soccer teams at Dogwood Park. All were sponsored, supported and made possible by the Mariemont Recreation Association. A Health & Recreation report was tabled during the last Council meeting that recommends a field maintenance program for Dogwood Park. This program was researched and developed by members of the MRA. He requested that the committee report be taken off the table and the recommendations included in that report be approved. In his experience, there is no one in the Village who appreciates the needs of Dogwood Park more than the members of MRA. They spend their evenings and weekends at this park; they generously serve our youth; they are the key stakeholders for Dogwood Park. They are simply requesting Council's support to continue their mission. The MRA has served as the stewards for Dogwood Park and advocates for the youth of Mariemont for the 25 years he has been involved. Through these years they have been faithful and trustworthy while building a thriving recreational program for our youth. There has never been an agreement and he respectfully requests the approval of their request while a good faith mutually beneficial agreement can be crafted. Finally, through the generosity and support of private foundations, government agencies and private donors we are in the process of making over a million dollars worth of improvements to this park. It would appear prudent to implement a comprehensive maintenance program moving forward and this request from MRA is a great start. He thanked members of the MRA and Village Council for their service to the Village of Mariemont.

Ms. Anna Wabler, Fellow Green Umbrella, was granted permission to address Council. She is continuing to work on the following:

Waste Reduction: *Getting resident feedback on potential trash/recycling cans for the parks to make sure proposal reflects residents' desires *She will be presenting a short list of recommendations to the Health and Recreation Committee *If approved by Council, the plan is to apply for Hamilton County ReSource grant.

Education and Outreach: *In process of meeting with local restaurants and condo residents about their sustainability practices *If any restaurants are interest in sustainability, they can reach out to her directly at anna.wabler@greenumbrella.org

Hillside Stabilization: *Met with Soil and Water Conservation District – working on assessment and recommendations for Miami Bluff hillside – helpful suggestions of plantings will be discussed with Mayor Brown *Meeting with local stakeholders about hillside.

Mr. Drew Everhart, 6807 Mt. Vernon, was granted permission to address Council. He supports the Dogwood Park plan to maintain the fields. The park is of high value to the Village.

Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on June 10, 2026, at 11:32 AM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Members Marcy Lewis and Alicia Stock, Mayor Bill Brown, and Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin.

The first item on the agenda was a review of the 2025 Village income and expenses. This was restricted to the General Fund and excluded restricted funds. The committee members found the information interesting but requested time for more analysis. This is the first step in evaluating long-term trends. The Committee recommended that an addendum showing the finances in the restricted funds be added. Mrs. Stock recommended that the Fiscal Officer provide Council with quarterly reports showing income, expenses, future appropriated spending, and unencumbered general fund balance.

The Committee also recommended the resident trash and recycling fees cover 100% of the trash and recycling expenses when the fees are increased at the end of the year when Council approves the 2027 trash and recycling contract.

Mrs. Rankin reviewed with the Committee the status of the Permanent Improvement Funds. Council has made several changes to this fund in order to purchase vehicles and pay for the fire bay roof. The expenses and planned expenses for Permanent Improvement Fund 4901 exceed the \$310,000 appropriated by Council by \$39,200. The Chairperson moved to remove \$43,700 from the planned 2026 expenses by removing the municipal building copper ridge and the Boathouse roof repair.

The Committee was concerned that the funding for several Dogwood Park projects has been delayed to future years. After some discussion, it was recommended that the Health and Recreation Committee consider funding the following projects using the Landsman grant:

1. Dogwood Park parking lot
2. Boathouse roof repairs (Dogwood Park)
3. Repaving the sidewalks on Chestnut Street and Plainville Road that border Dale Park
4. Replacement of lighting in Hopkins Park

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Mr. Ayer said the Village applied for the community projects funding and listed three projects. The instructions from HUD indicate that the money is earmarked for those specific projects – we cannot spend the funds on other projects. The submitted project narrative and project budget is matched up to the Congressional intent by HUD to make sure the funds are spent appropriately. But once they work with the grant, it is possible to see if the Dogwood Park suggestions could be considered. Dr. Lewis said it would be helpful to have a summary of grants and a timeline of the funds received, how the funds are restricted and what funds remain. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Health and Recreation Committee

Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to untable the Health and Recreation Committee report presented at the June 8, 2026, Council meeting. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

The Health & Recreation Committee (HR) met on Friday May 29 at 2:00 PM in the Municipal Building. Present were HR members Matthew Ayer (Chair); Marcy Lewis (Member); Lila Wells (Member); Mayor Brown; Fiscal Officer Rankin;

MPF Members Doug Zemke, Biff Black and Nancy Safran; Mariemont Recreation Association President Jordan Gaietto; and Mariemont Garden Club President Mary Alice Maze.

1. Community Project Funding Update

Mr. Ayer advised that communities have not yet received their official Letter of Invitation from the Department of Housing & Urban Development, but that Congressman Landsman's office advises that it should be soon.

2. Dogwood Park Project Update

Mr. Ayer provided the attached schedule update. The Committee unanimously agreed that a semi-monthly status report including schedule and budget should be provided by Village Staff to Council commencing in June.

3. Dale Park Statuary Interim Protection Measures

Mr. Ayer summarized the research into conserving the statuary and its base, as well as customer references for the process and materials recommended to clean and treat the Statuary. A proposal from local conservation expert Hummel Industries was presented – to clean, repair, treat and waterproof the statuary and its base for \$48,500. MPF requested that the village formally request \$18,500 from MPF to be added to the \$30,000 previously transferred into the Dale Park-designated village account, and to proceed with this work this Summer. Hummel also recommended that the Village remove vegetation overhanging or shading the statuary in order to reduce biological growth. HR unanimously recommended spending \$48,500 to clean, repair, treat and waterproof the Statuary and base upon receipt of the funds from MPF. Mayor Brown agreed to determine if the recommended tree removal work can be performed by our Village Service Department.

4. Dogwood Park Turf Management Plan

After discussion, HR unanimously recommended proceeding with the Turf Management Plan proposed by Team All Sports for the 2026 year in the amount of \$16,152 provided that: a) the Village would investigate "green" treatment options that Green Umbrella may recommend; b) the Village continue to work toward establishing a Field Usage Agreement with MRA.

5. Dogwood Park Signage and Entryway

Preliminary concepts developed by Kolar Design were presented for an entryway sign and a carillon history panel. HR requested that the Mayor provide an actual cost estimate to relocate the utility box and piping out of sight prior to considering "hiding" them with signage. It was understood that new park signage would require a Certificate of Appropriateness from ARB. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Council discussed the report at length and expressed the following concerns/thoughts/recommendations:

Item #1 – No issues

Item #2 – No issues

Item #3 - This will be essentially be a new starting point. \$48,500 will be spent on something that was not planned, but will have \$300,000 from the grant that was not anticipated. MPF will be important stakeholders in this project in deciding what projects will be done. Council discussed the matter if the trees would be removed or trimmed. There is work that can be done by the Village Maintenance Department, but the larger trees would need to be removed professionally. A formal letter to MPF would need to be sent in order to create and process a purchase order for the work to be provided by Hummel Industries. There was concern voiced regarding the removal of trees impacting the landscaping of Dale Park. Trees need to be removed in order to preserve the statuary. New trees can be planted with a tree planting plan. The purview of these trees does not fall under the Tree Board. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to amend the report to read "Trees will be removed at the Mayor's discretion". On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Item #4 – Mr. Ayer gave an explanation on the process of grass planting and chemical applications. The Committee will be working on an agreement with Mariemont Recreation Association, but in the meantime, the grass needs to be treated. Council discussed if the Maintenance Department could do some of the work on the list; however it was also brought up that the department is stretched thin and the work may be better suited for a professional company, even if it is at a cost. Mr. Van Stone voiced he did not want to set a precedent for other recreational facilities. Mayor Brown said this is a new unique project and Council has the authority to say no to other projects if they desire. It is a centerpiece of the Village and it needs to look good.

Item #5 – Mr. Ayer said Building Official Holloway advised that the ugly green box could not be moved for numerous reasons. He and Mayor Brown looked into concept options for signage to “hide” the box. That concept would be shared with the Health & Recreation Committee and the residents. It was further looked into the cost of moving the box. It may be more feasible than first believed and Mayor Brown is looking into the options available. The members of the committee said a memo to bring them up to date would have been appreciated. They were not aware of this until the report came out. It was added to the agenda that Health & Recreation would work more closely with the Parks Advisory Board with park projects. Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to accept the recommendations of the Health & Recreation Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*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.

*Pease Doors had their ribbon cutting on the new showroom facility.

Resolutions:

* “Adopting the Budget for 2027; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had the second and third readings. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-30-26 was adopted

* “To Amend Resolution R-28-26 Declaring the Necessity of Levying a Tax in Excess of the 10 Mill Limitation for Permanent Improvements and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had the second and third readings. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-31-26 was adopted.

* “To Confirm the Appointment of Village Zoning Officer Shawn Tubb to Fill the Unexpired Term of Rod Holloway for Calendar Years 2026 and 2027; To Set Compensation; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to suspend the rules and allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-32-26 was adopted.

Ordinances:

*An Ordinance Authorizing Application and Contracting with Hamilton County for the Municipal Road Fund” had a second reading.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer