

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

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present was Mr. Ayer, Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Stock, Mr. Van Stone and Mrs. Wells. Mrs. Brownknight arrived at 6:43 p.m.

Minutes:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock, to approve the Council minutes as written for June 22, 2026. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Dr. Lewis noted that the incorrect date was shown on the minutes for the Tax Budget Hearing on June 22, 2026. The date will be corrected. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer, to approve the Tax Budget Hearing minutes for June 22, 2026. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Hamilton County Community & Economic Development, Letter Dated June 8, 2026, re: Hamilton County Urban County Requalification – Program Years 2027-2029 Participation Decision and Cooperation Agreement. Village Engineer Ertel explained that this agreement corresponds with the first resolution on the agenda and this is just to continue the HUD program with Hamilton County, allowing us to apply for grants.

*From Police Chief Hines: June 2026 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown noted the inclusion of some complimentary letters, showcasing the professionalism of Officers Simon, Hamiel, and Sergeant Meucci in three specific incidents. Chief Hines recognized Assistant Fire Chief Copeland, Captain Williams, and Captain Henderson for their work with the fireworks which went off without a hitch.

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: June 2026 Monthly Report. Assistant Chief Copeland noted that he and Chief Hines don't anticipate any problems with upcoming ISO ratings. The Village is currently rated highly in Ohio.

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: June 2026 Monthly Report.

*From Council Member Ayer: Spending request Dated 7-13-26: Hummel Restoration (Amount not to exceed \$48,500.00). This is for work on the statuary. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to approve the spending request. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

*From William Pettifer: Pool Manager Candidate Resume (Letter of Recommendation from Rebecca Vianello, Letter of Recommendation from the Pool Board). Mayor Brown stated that current pool manager Mike Lockhart has accepted a new job and will work until August 10th. Mayor Brown knows Bill Pettifer and thinks he is a great candidate and will make an excellent pool manager. The pool commission agrees. Mr. Ayer noted that Bill Pettifer will be trained by Mike Lockhart and paid the assistant manager rate. He will not be hired as the new pool manager until 2027 and there will be a resolution at that time.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Allyson West, executive director and founder of Cindependent, was granted permission to address Council. I wanted to share a brief update on the progress of the Mariemont Theatre. Our \$1 million reopening campaign is now 95% pledged, and if we're able to close the campaign by the end of July, we'll be able to bring our staff back onsite in August - the next major step toward reopening. Behind the scenes, our team has been busy organizing operations, deep cleaning the building, purchasing and registering inventory, and preparing every part of the theatre for day-to-day operations. We're also on track to launch a brand-new website in early August that will feature our opening film lineup and ticket information. We've completed significant technology upgrades, including five new digital cinema projectors, three new screens, upgraded every auditorium to 5.1 cinema surround sound, and installed new accessibility features to make the theatre welcoming for everyone. We're also refreshing the interior with a design inspired by the theatre's 1930s origins. Working

with Drawing Dept, we researched the building's history and developed a color palette that celebrates the era - a Technicolor-inspired portal into the world of cinema that honors the building while creating a memorable experience for today's audiences. Our liquor license was approved and we are adding an outdoor patio to support infrastructure revenue and community gathering. Community support continues to be incredibly encouraging. Today alone we welcomed 13 new memberships, bringing our total to 318 member households, and received nearly \$7,250 in combined memberships and one-time donations. It's a wonderful reminder that people are eager to see the Mariemont Theatre thrive again. While we aren't announcing an opening date just yet, every week brings another major milestone, and we're excited to continue sharing our progress with you. Thank you all for your continued support as we work to bring this historic theatre back to life for the Village and the entire region.

Mayor Brown thanked Ms. West for her hard work on this project. Citizens of Mariemont may become members of "Friends of Mariemont Theatre," a new membership program created by Cindependent to support the operations and transition of the theatre this year, by going to mariemonttheatre.org and sign up online for an annual recurring membership. Free tickets and concession discounts will be available to members. Anyone interested in making a donation may send a check, made payable to *Cindependent*, to 6906 Wooster Pike, Cincinnati, Ohio 45227. Mrs. Brownknight acknowledged Mayor Brown's and this Council's leadership in showing their support for the theatre and clarified that we are only \$50,000 away from closing this fundraising campaign. Ms. West is hoping to announce job postings in the next few weeks.

Ms. Anna Wabler, Fellow for Green Umbrella, was granted permission to address Council. She has been working on a parks recycling project. She's preparing to apply for a waste reduction innovation grant (WRIG) with Hamilton County Resource for recycling bins in our parks. Ms. Wabler will present her final proposal to the Health & Rec committee and then to Council. She has also been working on developing a restaurant auditing program that would evaluate the restaurants in the Village based on their level of sustainability and award them based on different categories. She has been working with Last Mile Food Rescue, an organization that connects nonprofits in the area with restaurants, grocery stores, and caterers who have a food surplus. There is an app where volunteers can connect with restaurants to deliver food to nonprofits. Lastly, she has been working on evaluating energy use in the Village to find areas where reductions can be made.

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Manager Mariemont Public Library, was granted permission to address Council. She announced upcoming events at the library including Mahjong on Tuesday nights from 6-8pm, free grant program for the community on July 30th at 1pm, on August 6th children's author Will Hillenbrand, and Back-to-school Bubblefest on August 18th from 10:30-11:30am.

Ms. Mandi Rohal, 3707 East Street, was granted permission to address Council. Speaking as a representative for the pool board, they are all excited to support William Pettifer as pool manager.

Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Health and Recreation

The Health & Recreation Committee (HR) met on Thursday June 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; Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin; Village Engineer Chris Ertel; Parks Advisory Board Chair Jim Goetz; MRC Chair Linda Scott; Green Umbrella Fellow Anna Wabler; Residents David Middleton, Barb Whitaker, Matt Painter and Greg Wells.

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.

Parks Advisory Board Updates

Jim Goetz summarized the role of the Board of Mariemont Parks Advisory Board (PAB) in its advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council, its objective to develop a Master Plan for each of our parks, and work-to-date on Master Planning for ABB Park and the Concourse.

The Village has an opportunity to apply for an ODNR NatureWorks Grant; ABB Park renovation seems to be an excellent match to this grant's qualifiers. However, with a looming deadline, the need to focus on the parks for which we have the CPF award, and a desire to seek concurrence from HR and Council before proceeding, PAB recommends passing on this opportunity this year. HR unanimously agreed.

Mr. Goetz next described PAB's desire to present recommendations to the Mayor & HR for the CPF-funded improvements to Isabella Hopkins Park and Dale Park. After discussion and clarifications, HR unanimously agreed that PAB would work collaboratively with Mariemont Garden Club to propose a plan for Hopkins Park, and with Mariemont Preservation Foundation to propose a plan for Dale Park. It was also agreed that the corresponding HR meetings would have one single park as the only agenda item in order to ensure adequate time for review and public input.

Dogwood Park Project Updates

Mr. Ayer advised that Village Staff (Rod Holloway and Chris Ertel) will be providing monthly project status reports that include an updated schedule, budget and upcoming work. Mr. Holloway is working on a template report.

Mayor Brown described his ongoing efforts to determine the actual cost for the option of relocating the utility box and irrigation piping away from the park entrance near the Tot Lot.

Engineer Ertel presented two optional layouts for renovating the parking lot, to meet the objectives in the LWCF grant application: accessibility; safety improvements with separate entrance and exits as well as a drop-off zone; and parking. After discussion and resident input, HR unanimously agreed that Mr. Ertel would:

- Mark off the proposed lot configuration onsite for the Committee and residents to review;
- Request another layout for consideration with a smaller footprint (with one tree removed) as marked up at the meeting;
- Ask our engineering consultant to color code the layouts showing the existing v. proposed layout; and
- Review the revised layouts at a future HR meeting.

Green Umbrella Recycling Receptacle Investigation

Anna Wabler described the opportunity for the Village to obtain a Hamilton County Resource Waste Reduction and Innovation Grant (requiring a 25% local match). She presented various options for waste and recycling receptacles for use in parks and other locations that could benefit from adding a recycling receptacle. After discussion, HR unanimously recommended that Anna develop a waste survey to quantify potential waste reduction for use in the grant application, and to research a recycling receptacle that would match or complement our existing Village waste receptacles.

MRC Windscreens

Linda Scott requested that the Village proceed with purchasing new windscreens with logos for tennis and pickleball. The total cost of \$8,922.86 exceeded the \$6,500 estimate approved in the 10/13/25 Council meeting. However, the difference is actually only \$307.06, after taking into account the contribution from the school district and from the pickleball fund. HR unanimously requested that Ms. Scott provide additional supporting details to Fiscal Officer Rankin and seek approval. (Linda provided the details on June 28, 2026).

Mr. Van Stone asked if the Parks Advisory Board could prioritize the projects. Mr. Ayer confirmed they will do that, with the top priorities being Hopkins Park and the statuary area in Dale Park, but those should not require additional Village funding. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to accept the recommendations of the committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Safety Committee

The Safety Committee met on Monday, June 15th, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. in the Municipal Building. Present were Safety Committee members Alicia Stock (chair), Bob Van Stone, and Matthew Ayer; Police Chief Rick Hines; Mayor Bill Brown, Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin, Sergeant Trent Meucci, and Lieutenant Nick Pittsley.

Agenda Item: Madisonville/West Traffic Study

The committee discussed the need to evaluate the Madisonville/West intersection. Several residents have raised concerns about crosswalk safety and speeding at this intersection, and an accident involving a bike and a Kroger truck recently occurred in this location. Two quotes were obtained for safety studies, Choice One (\$6,500) and TEC Engineering (\$4,800). After discussion, Bob Van Stone motioned to move forward with the TEC Traffic Study and investigate the addition of flashing school zone signs on Madisonville Road contingent on financial contributions from the Mariemont School District. Alicia Stock seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mayor Brown agreed to reach out to Lance Hollander with Mariemont Schools to start the conversation about splitting the cost of the study/lights, and Alicia Stock agreed to investigate the cost of installing two school zone signs with flashing lights (potentially solar powered).

Agenda Item: Large Vehicles in Patriots Park

The committee reviewed a recent resident request to disallow large vehicles in Patriots Park. Large vehicles, including a school bus and construction truck, have tried to cut through Patriots Park to avoid traffic backups and have gotten stuck in the tight turns, causing a safety hazard for the children that live and play near the park. Bob Van Stone motioned for the Mariemont Police Department to put up warning signs at the two entrances to Patriot's Park for large vehicles. Alicia Stock seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: E-Bikes

The committee discussed recent resident feedback regarding the safety concerns of e-bikes, e-scooters, and moto-style dirt bikes. Several other municipalities, including Terrace Park, have recently adopted new ordinances or are in the process of amending current ordinances regarding e-bikes and micromobility devices. The committee agreed that Alicia Stock will work with Sergeant Trent Meucci to review the current ordinance and suggest potential changes to the Safety Committee at a future meeting.

Mayor Brown reached out to Lance Hollander (Mariemont City School District) and he is not interested in participating in the TEC traffic study at this time. Dr. Lewis asked about a grant from Safe Ways to School for the Madisonville/West intersection. Mrs. Stock said they have applied for that grant, but funding is not available until 2029. Dr. Lewis asked if an officer might be able to be posted at the intersection; Chief Hines said they have discussed putting up temporary stop signs there when school resumes, though he is concerned about it causing bigger traffic backups. They will continue to run radar in that area and have issued a few citations for speeding. Dr. Lewis is curious what other communities say about e-bikes; if they have an age requirement or test you have to pass. Mrs. Stock said the complaints are mainly about the moto-style bikes being driven by young kids and should kids with or without helmets be riding them down Wooster Pike. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone, to accept the recommendations of the committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

Mayor Brown referred the trash/recycling contract to the Public Works Committee.

Mayor Brown was approached by Kendall Communications, a subcontractor of Verizon. They would like to build a tower down by the maintenance facility and they would pay an annual rent to the Village. The entire installation would be done at their expense. Mayor Brown is having the lease reviewed by John O'Shea. That will be put into the Public Works committee.

Mayor Brown thanked MPF for their donation for the fireworks and recognized Assistant Fire Chief Copeland for all of his work with the fire department to make it a safe show.

Resolutions:

"Resolution Adopting Cooperation Agreement for the Hamilton County Entitlement Programs Years 2027, 2028, 2029; and To Declare Emergency" had a 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 Resolution had the second and third readings. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no

nays. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-33-26 was adopted.

“Resolution Authorizing Sale of 2017 for Explorer Police Vehicle; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mrs. Brownknight 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 Resolution had the second and third readings. Chief Hines explained that the car will be sold to the West Liberty Police Department and they are willing to pay \$10,000 which is a fair price for the vehicle. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to adopt the Resolution. 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. Resolution No. R-34-26 was adopted.

“Renewal of 3.5 Mill Tax Levy in Excess of 10 Mill Limitation for Capital Improvements for the Tax Years of 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030 and 2031; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. Fiscal Officer Rankin clarified that this is a second step in getting the levy on the ballot in November. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had the second and third readings. Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells, to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-35-26 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“An Ordinance Authorizing Application and Contracting with Hamilton County for the Municipal Road Fund” had a third reading. Village Engineer Ertel noted this is to apply for funds later. His intent is to apply for matching funds for the CROWN-Plainville Road safety improvements for the trail and paving of Plainville Road at the Murray intersection. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-11-26 was adopted.

“To Supplement Ordinance No. O-1-26 Annual Appropriation Ordinance; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight, 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. Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone, to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-12-26 was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer