

**Village of Mariemont  
Council Meeting  
July 27, 2026**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present was Mr. Ayer, Mrs. Brownknight, Mrs. Stock, Mr. Van Stone and Mrs. Wells.

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

**Minutes:**

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to accept the minutes as written for July 13, 2026. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

**Communications:**

\*From Maintenance Superintendent James: May and June 2026 Monthly Reports

\*From Ms. Anna Wabler, Green Umbrella – Overview of summer fellowship work:

\*Parks Recycling Project – Includes grant draft application funding for 13 receptacles across Village parks and the Strand (6) Dogwood Park, (2) Concourse, (1) Ann Buntin Becker Park, (1) Dale Park, (3) Strand. She gathered community feedback and conducted waste audits. It is estimated it will eliminate 10 tons per year in the landfill. The resolution will be presented later in the meeting.

\*Hillside Stabilization Research – She has met with experts from Hamilton County and has researched information that she compiled into a policy brief that will be handed off to the Village for use in future hillside decisions.

\*Restaurant Program – It will be a sustainable reward program for local restaurants which will be scored in six categories: plant-based items, locally sourced items, food waste, disposable, recycling and energy efficiency. Based on the number of points, restaurants will receive bronze, silver or gold medals. She is working with Hamilton County Resource to provide incentive for recipients and composting.

\*Energy Auditing – She has worked on analyzing the Village's energy data and compiled a worksheet that can be updated going forward. She will continue to be available after her fellowship ends and will leave tools, pamphlets and resources for reference. She prepared a presentation that she will forward to Mayor Brown and members of Council.

Mrs. Stock thanked Ms. Wabler, and Green Umbrella for all the tremendous work done for the Village. She was a perfect fit for our Village during her ten-week fellowship. All her hard work will be an enormous help to her and Sustainable Mariemont going forward.

**Permission to Address Council:**

Ms. Mary Alice Maze, President of the Garden Club, was granted permission to address Council. The Garden Club has been able to save money over the years and presented the Village with a check for \$10,000 to be used for upcoming projects at Hopkins Park in conjunction with the \$25,000 donation made by Jane McDonald. Mayor Brown thanked the Garden Club for the generous donation.

**Pay the Bills:**

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

**Committee Reports:**

### Heath and Recreation Committee

The Health & Recreation Committee (HR) met on Monday July 20, 2026, at 4:00 PM in the Municipal Building. Present were HR members Matthew Ayer (Chair); Marcy Lewis (Member); Lila Wells (Member); Mayor Brown; Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin; Parks Advisory Board Chair Jim Goetz; Green Umbrella Fellow Anna Wabler; MPF President Doug Zemke; Garden Club Members Mary Alice Maze (President), Mary Beth York, Carolyn Tuttle and Lisa Wharton.

### Waste Reduction Innovation Grant (WRIG)

Green Umbrella Fellow Anna Wabler proposed that the Village apply for a WRIG from Hamilton County Resource to purchase (13) recycling receptacles, design to match our existing waste receptacles, color a forest green, with “recycling” label. She recommended locations: Dogwood (6), Concourse (2), Square/Strand (2), Tennis (1), ABB Park (1), Dale Park (1). If awarded, Hamilton County would fund \$14,668 and the Village \$4,584 (25% of the grant amount).

HR unanimously agreed to apply for the grant and to prepare a conforming resolution for the next Council meeting.

### Hopkins Park Planning

Jim Goetz summarized the objectives for Isabella Hopkins Park, to create a “library park” as presented in the Community Project Funding Application, specifically with the existing canopy preserved, a new shelter, screening from Wooster Pike for safety and noise attenuation, and accessibility. The Garden Club also envisions additional amenities, to the extent current funding can provide, including redesigned walkways, courtyard, water feature, furnishings (tables and chairs), new water fountain and irrigation.

\$296,000 is designated in the CPF for Hopkins, with no local match required.

To obtain a Contract with HUD, the administering agency for the CPF, Mariemont is required to submit a project narrative and detailed cost estimate for the project. Once a Contract is signed, Mariemont must next complete an Environmental Review of the project prior for HUD review and approval prior to initiating any “hard” costs. The cost for the Environmental Review is reimbursable.

Mariemont Preservation Foundation (~\$28,000) and Mariemont Garden Club (\$10,000) have set aside funds for the Hopkins project. Both donors approve of utilizing these funds for the above two preliminary planning tasks (design/narrative/detailed costs, and Environmental Review).

After discussion, HR unanimously recommends to Council:

- Confirm with MPF donor that the gift may be used for these planning activities. (Note: Mariemont Garden Club confirmed this on July 22).
- Mariemont Parks Advisory Board in collaboration with the Garden Club and our Village Engineer finalize and issue a Request for Proposal for design/cost estimating services. No spending of Village funds was authorized; the proposals will be reviewed in a future HR meeting; and
- The Parks Advisory Board, Garden Club and HR ensure that public input is sought and carefully considered in any proposed plans.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to amend the report to reflect the Village grant amount would be \$3667.00 and for clarification “no taxpayer funds” will be used. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Van Stone voiced concern about the water fountain request and future maintenance costs in our parks. We have an issue with the water fountain at Ann Buntin Becker Park and requests for maintenance at the ball fields. He does not believe there are a lot of extra maintenance funds. He suggested that the design feature be made with low maintenance cost in mind and develop a long term maintenance plan. Mr. Ayer said the requests will address that the design be made for standard minimal maintenance. Mrs. Brownknight suggested the request for proposal include a score for the desire for low maintenance. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to adopt the amended report. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on July 15, 2026, at 3:20 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Members Marcy Lewis and Alicia Stock, Mayor Bill Brown, Tax Administrator Chuck Barlow, and Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin.

The only item on the agenda was a review of the Village income to the Tax Office. The Committee reviewed this data. After significant discussion, the Committee made two recommendations:

1. The Tax Administrator would include a summary of income received through the month of the report for the last 5 years. This will provide Council an easier way to review the long-term trends of Village income.
2. The Fiscal Officer would provide the Committee with a report summarizing the Village income and expenses for the years 2023 through 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Mr. Van Stone said he is waiting for some information from the Tax Department. He will review all the summary trends with the Finance Committee. The tax income for many years has the garbage fees included before 2020 and the financials will be limited to the records from UAN. Mr. Barlow will be including the reports going forward. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

### **Miscellaneous:**

Mayor Brown said Shawn Tubb, who will be replacing Rod Holloway as our Building Official, brought to his attention that the Village has been receiving a lot of communication from residents and property owners about severe flooding they have experience recently. Some of the issues may be exacerbated by runoff from neighboring parcels and it seems that some lots have a very high percentage of impermeable surface area, and some are discharging downspouts onto grade rather than into a drainage system. Mayor Brown referred the matter to the Public Works & Services Committee.

Mrs. Brownknight said the theatre is very close to making an exciting announcement.

### **Resolutions:**

\* “To Amend Resolution R-17-20; To Establish Court Costs as Authorized by Section 33.05 of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Mariemont” had a first reading.

\* “Resolution Approving Grant Application with Hamilton County Solid Waste District for (13) Recycling Receptacles; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The resolution had a second and third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-36-26 was adopted.

### **Ordinances:**

\* “To Supplement Ordinance No. O-1-26 Annual Appropriation Ordinance” had a first reading.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

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William A. Brown, Mayor

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Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer