

To: Mayor Policastro and Members of Council
From: Health and Recreation Committee: Troy Hawkins, Chairman
Date: January 22, 2018
Re: Ohio Department of Natural Resources Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant for a multi-use path along the Murray Avenue median.

The Health and Recreation Committee met on January 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss a proposed application for an Ohio Department of Natural Resources Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant for a multi-use path along the Murray Avenue median. In attendance were Mariemont residents Rob Bartlett, Linda Bartlett, Larry Wessel, Nita Wessel and stakeholder Rick Greiwe, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, Mayor Dan Policastro, Committee Vice-Chairperson Eric Marsland, Committee Member Mary Ann Schwartz, and Committee Chairperson Troy Hawkins.

A Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant would support the design and construction of an asphalt trail along the Murray Avenue median from Settle Road to Plainville Road or Livingood Park.

The benefits of the trail discussed in the meeting are that it provides health and recreational opportunities for Mariemont Village residents by providing a safe way for students from the northeast side of Mariemont and from Fairfax to walk or bike to Mariemont Elementary School; providing a safe way for residents to walk or bike to the Mariemont business district, Mariemont Library, Mariemont High School, and Cincinnati Sports Club; providing part of a connection between an existing trail along Murray Avenue through Fairfax and the Little Miami Trail¹; providing recreational opportunities; and providing a connection to facilitate commuting by bike along Erie and the Wasson Way to Xavier and Clifton.

The Village is working with Choice One Engineering to prepare the cost estimate and grant application. A 2014 grant application from Mariemont to the Federal Transportation Alternatives program had a very similar plan with a total cost of four hundred and thirty six thousand dollars and the cost at this time should be similar or higher due to increases in construction costs. The maximum amount of State funding available through the Clean Ohio Trails Fund is five hundred thousand. The Village match is 25%.

The grant application is due February 1st. Choice One is on track to complete the application which will be about 80 pages. The Mayor will sign the application before submission.

¹ Columbia Township and the Great Parks of Hamilton County are planning a connection between the Little Miami Trail from Bass Island to the Mariemont Library.

If the Village applies for the maximum amount, the local match amount would be one hundred and twenty five thousand dollars. Should the grant be approved, it is expected the Village would receive the funding in the fall of 2018 and would have 15 months from that time to complete the project. The Village would not incur the project costs until fiscal year 2019.

The Village will seek other grants and donations to help offset the local match.

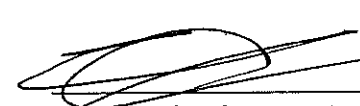
The Health and Recreation Committee recommends Council pass an emergency resolution that the Village submit an application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for a Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant in support of a section of multi-use trail along the Murray median from Settle Road to Plainville Road with the understanding that the grant requires a 25% local match.

The reason for the emergency is the short timeline for grant submission and the recent changes in Council membership.


Respectfully Submitted:



Troy Hawkins, Committee Chair



Eric Marsland, Committee Vice-Chair



Mary Ann Schwartz, Committee Member