

File w/ Report

Health and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

*The meeting was held at 7 pm on January 16, 2018
in the Mariemont Village Council Chamber.*

Purpose: 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.

Attendance: In attendance were Mariemont residents Linda Bartlett, Rob Bartlett, and Nita Wessel, and Larry Wessel; 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.

Mr. Hawkins explained that the grant would support the design and construction of an asphalt trail along the Murray Avenue median from Settle Road to Plainville Road. The trail would provide a safe way for students from the northeast side of Mariemont and from Fairfax to walk to Mariemont Elementary School. The trail is part of a connection between an existing trail along Murray Avenue through Fairfax and the Little Miami Trail. 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. With the connection to the Little Miami Trail, the proposed trail along Murray Avenue would provide recreational opportunities for Village residents. Also, the proposed trail offers Village residents the possibility of commuting by bike along the Wasson Way to Xavier and Clifton. The Village is working with Choice One Engineering to prepare the cost estimate and grant application. The cost estimate was not yet available for the meeting, however 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. The cost at this time should be similar or higher accounting for 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 Mayor requested Mr. Ertel provide an update. Mr. Ertel stated the grant 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. If the Village applies for the maximum amount, the local match amount would be one hundred and twenty five thousand dollars. The Village would not incur the project costs until fiscal year 2019. The Mayor asked whether the Village could find a portion of the matching amount from other sources. Mr. Ertel said there has been some discussion of seeking funding from donors to cover a portion of the Village match. Mr. Ertel indicated it would not be possible to use a Federal Transportation Alternatives grant to match the Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant. The Mayor suggested we get this grant completed and then move forward with exploring other options to help with the Village's costs. Mr. Bartlett suggested exploring the possibility of obtaining funding from Interact for Health. Mrs. Wessel recommended reaching out to Wade Johnston at Tri State Trails for information and suggested MedPace might be a place to look for a donation. Mr. Hawkins indicated he has been in touch with Wade Johnston and could follow up with Interact for Health and MedPace. Mr. Greiwe suggested setting up or working with a 501.c.3 to provide a means of accepting donations for

the trail that could offer donors a tax benefit. The Mayor asked Mr. Ertel whether Choice One would have everything ready for the February 1st deadline. Mr. Ertel indicated Choice One indicated it shouldn't be a problem. Mr. Ertel asked whether the Village has data regarding use of its parks that could be used to support the application. Mr. Marsland indicated Mariemont Recreation Association would have data we could use. Mrs. Bartlett indicated the Mariemont Schools often use the parks and could provide data regarding the number of students and how often. Mr. Ertel asked whether the Village has any infrastructure planning documents for its parks. The Mayor indicated the Village has been in discussion with the Mariemont Preschool Parents' Group about developing a small "pocket park" playground in one of the Village's parks such as General Short's Park. Mr. Bartlett asked whether Choice One had the drawings Martin Koepke had made to illustrate a possible trail design for the Village. Mr. Hawkins indicated Mr. Koepke had provided some drawings and he had passed them on to Choice One.

Mr. Hawkins indicated he requested Choice One look into the possibility of crossing Plainville and connecting with the sidewalk on the north side of Madisonville Road in front of the Livingood Park Condominiums. Mrs. Schwartz asked whether this would require removing the decorative wall on the east side of Plainville Road. Mr. Hawkins indicated that was not yet determined, but the hope would be the trail could go around the wall. The Mayor indicated we should reach out to Columbia Township to receive permission or an easement for the trail on property under their control. There was some discussion around how the trail might cross Plainville Road. Mrs. Schwartz stated that a crosswalk through the intersection would not be necessary for students using the trail to get to Mariemont Elementary School and could be unsafe and suggested the scope of the grant be limited to the Murray median between Settle and Plainville. The Mayor indicated the first priority is to get the grant submitted in two weeks.

Mrs. Schwartz asked when the Village would receive the funding. Mr. Ertel indicated the Village would receive the funding in the fall of 2018 and would have 15 months from that time to complete the project.

Committee Recommendation:

The Health and Recreation Committee recommends Council pass a 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.