

TO: Village of Mariemont Council
FROM: Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Sub Committee
DATE: June 12, 2023
SUBJECT: Economic Development Strategy

The Special Sub Committee for Economic Development met on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 2:15. Chairperson Marcy Lewis, council members Kelly Rankin, Randy York, Leah Geldbaugh, Mayor Bill Brown, Village Administrator Chuck Barlow, resident Tina Getter (who is a member of the Mayor’s Resident Economic Development Group), and Emil Liszniasky, principal of Envision were all present at the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to meet personally with Envision Principal, Emil Liszniasky, and allow committee members an opportunity to discuss Envision’s proposal in greater detail.

Over the course of the last several months and as a result of the recommendations of the Ohio Plan’s Comprehensive Strategic Action Plan, various entities were evaluated to assess their fit for providing the Village with professional assistance in its Economic Development efforts. The Mayor, along with various council members, Administrator Barlow, and members of the Mayor’s Resident Economic Development Group met with Envision (initial meeting 12/12/22), Alloy and Redi Cincinnati (2/8/23) and The Neyer Group (3/21/23). In addition, a proposal was solicited from Blume Community Partners (received 4/10/23).

While each organization has many strengths, at the conclusion of the May 15, 2023, meeting the committee voted unanimously to accept Envision’s proposal. Envision embodies many unique strengths that make it ideally suited to helping Mariemont in its Economic Development process. Specifically, Envision had worked successfully with Madeira, Village of Poland and City of Aurora (Poland and Aurora each have historic districts). Envision has worked with their clients at a local, state and national level to further their funding requests and policy initiatives. Envision also has extensive knowledge of federal discretionary grant programs and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. They will specifically work within the existing industrial area as well as aid in evaluating the highest and best use of other potential sites within the Village. In addition, Envision has strong relationships with other economic development organizations, including but not limited to Development Strategies Group LLC (who submitted a proposal to Mariemont last fall). Envision has also made it clear that their proposal is flexible, and fluid as various findings emerge (but will not exceed the contracted bid). It should be noted that over the past few months, Envision has been available to discuss both their proposal and additional concerns of the Village. For example, Emil reviewed the pool grant request that was made last year and made specific recommendations for this year’s submission.

In conclusion, the Sub Committee For Economic Development unanimously voted to accept Envision’s proposal. The depth of their knowledge, familiarity with various Economic Development tools and experience with acquiring funding make it the ideal organization to help Mariemont to create and maximize its Economic Development Strategy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcy Lewis, Chair

Kelly Rankin

Randy York