

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The following Council members answered present to roll call: Mr. Andrews, Mr. Black, Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Miller, Mr. Scheeser and Mr. Wolter.

Mayor Policastro asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Scheeser's mother who passed away last week.

Mayor Policastro introduced Mr. David Zack, Mariemont Preservation Foundation, who presented the Vision 2021 Plan. Mr. Zack said on behalf of MPF trustees and the Vision Commission Committee members he wanted to thank the Mayor and members of Council for the opportunity to present the final Vision 2021 publication. More than two and half years have passed since MPF originally approached Council for a Resolution of support for this initiative. In that time, Village Administration (past and present), Village organizations, school administration, staff & students, and citizens at-large have provided input and feedback on what they see as essential for Mariemont's continuation in its next 100 years. As such, Vision 2021 is a target or ideal for accomplishing many of the priorities or ideas laid out in the publication. As Council digests the publication please find a basket of ideas that are worthy of thought, debate and consideration for development, redevelopment or otherwise. These suggestions are meant to get the ball rolling so to speak but they do warrant the questions: Where do you go from here? Indeed, how do the ideas on paper become valid considerations or ideas to pursue on behalf of the community's interest? For one, a Vision Committee has been established and appointed by the Mayor and we see this as a step in the right direction. This Commission will give Council valuable guidance in acting upon vision 2021 priorities. Once the Vision Commission, Council, staff and other "resource groups" begin formally working together on identifying responsibilities, strategies for implementation, time frames and costs - progress can then be made. The Vision Commission will be challenged with finding the resources required for these initiatives in a time of budget limitations. One suggestion is that the Village hire a full-time Administrator (as Fairfax does) and/or a part-time Historic Coordinator to focus on: Developing a game plan to expand the Village's tax base, seeking grant monies where relevant and needed and updating the Village's current zoning code. The Vision 2021 Committee will be happy to answer questions as Council combs through the materials. For 32 years MPF has work closely with Council, Mayor and key Village organizations on numerous initiatives such as the 75th Anniversary Project, Resthaven Barn Rehabilitation, the Cupola Project, the Annual Taste of Mariemont, the National Historic Landmark Designation and now the Vision 2021 Plan. He thanked everyone for their trust over the years and said MPF prides themselves on being Mariemont's largest member-only organization with just under 300 households for calendar year 2011. Upholding the tradition of planning makes Mariemont so special and unique.

Mayor Policastro said he appreciates all the work that MPF has done. The Vision 2021 Plan is in the Economic Development and Planning Committee.

Mr. Scheeser asked if there is a way to activate this in the Permanent Improvement discussion for next year. We can use the Vision Plan as a lens as to how we view the Permanent Improvement choices that we make every year. This is a compilation of what the constituents want.

Mr. Andrews said he views this as an input but he also feels there is an operational side when we look at appropriating money. He feels this offers key input. He asked what happens now. Mr. Miller said we will meet and discuss how we want to implement the plan.

Mr. Wolter said he is impressed with the document though he views it as a wish list. The next thing Council should do is prioritize what is doable and put those at the top of the list.

Mr. Andrews said one of the first things the Committee should do is define what the Committee's and Council's purpose is with this document, how it will interact with other parts of what we do and determine a timeline. He asked if MPF had any input on how Council acts on this. Mr. Millard Rogers suggested starting with the 21 priorities listed in the Vision 21 plan.

Discussion ensued regarding obtaining grant monies. Mr. Rogers said the Thomas J. Emery Memorial is not able to help. Mayor Policastro said he is working with Mr. Lee Carter for help with the Bell Tower but grant money is the key as he is putting a freeze on some spending until the end of the year.

Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the minutes as written for September 12, 2011. On roll call; five ayes, no nays (Ms. McCarthy abstained).

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From John Deere Landscaping: Proposed lighting for Village Square. Mayor Policastro said everyone loves the Christmas tree lights on the square. He wanted to buy more and talked with Superintendent

Scherpenberg who suggested recess lighting to shine on the trees because kids pull off the lights on the trees. He thinks this is expensive and was going to assign it to the Public Works & Service Committee. Mr. Andrews suggested getting volunteers to help put more twinkling lights on properly as they are just draped on the trees currently. Mayor Policastro suggested we could get donations to buy more twinkling lights perhaps from the Civic Association. Mr. Miller said he was in favor of pulling more attention to the square.

From Police Clerk Maupin: Mayor's Court Statement July 2011

From Hamilton County Auditor: 2nd Half Estate Tax Settlement \$46,585.84 (1st Half \$100,393.00). Mayor Policastro said the amount was disappointing. Clerk Borgerding said we budgeted \$250,000 which leaves us an additional \$100,000 in the whole. We are looking at a \$265,000 budget deficit for this year.

From Engineer Ertel: Memo dated September 13, 2011 re: Upgrade standards for traffic control signs. Mayor Policastro said we have to upgrade our signs due to federal law. ODOT will replace these signs at their cost.

From Mary Alice Maze: e-mail dated September 18, 2011 re: Opposition to proposed cyclo-cross event

From MariElders: Monthly Recap ending August 31, 2011

From Treasurer Kulesza: Treasurer's Report August 2011. Treasurer Kulesza said just because our funds are looking good does not mean we have to spend money.

From Police Chief Hines: Monthly Report August 2011. Ms. McCarthy asked what the process is if someone wants to solicit in the Village. Chief Hines said they have to be a non-profit organization and approved by the Mayor's Office. Ms. McCarthy asked if the young men on the square yesterday had approval. She did call the police department to report it. Chief Hines said he was not aware of it but would check into it.

From Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District: Letter dated August 30, 2011 re: Residential Recycling Incentive 1st Half 2011 \$8,945.06. Mayor Policastro said the Village was the number one recycler in communities with less than 10,000 people for the second year in a row. We went from 31% to 34% and he believes the recycling cans in the parks have made a difference. Mr. Scheeser said this is a number we should be proud of. Mr. Wolter commented that Mayor Policastro encourages residents without a recycling bin to get one and thanked him for being a big advocate of recycling.

From Aquila and Joe Stoner: e-mail dated September 23, 2011 re: Opposition to the proposed cyclo-cross race

From Mariemont Preservation Foundation: Resolution from Board of Trustees re: Opposition to proposed cyclo-cross race

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Finance Chairman and Clerk. Mr. Wolter said \$700 for shoes in the Maintenance Department seemed like a lot of money. Mayor Policastro said the Ordinance states the Village will supply them with shoes and uniforms. The shoes are steel-toed which are not inexpensive. Mr. Wolter said the \$800 for stamped envelopes makes him question if there is more way to use electronic media so we do not have to mail things. Mayor Policastro said we got rid of the postage meter which saves approximately \$1000 per year. Basically the cost is for buying stamps but saves time since the envelopes are already stamped. Mr. Scheeser said the successful experiment with collecting pool memberships online suggests we should snowball that into bigger and more prominent mailings such as waste fees and quarterly income tax declarations. It will not eliminate the need for mailings but it could certainly reduce. Mr. Andrews said the biggest cost is not the postage or the envelopes but the work and labor involved to fold and stuff. Mr. Andrews said he could create accounts for residents so they could pay all Village business online.

Mr. Black asked about the West Street Parking Design expense for Martin Koepke. He asked what the plan Mr. Koepke is planning around is. Mayor Policastro said he is going to figure out where the trees go. Building Commissioner Malone said the Village hired CDS to conduct a parking survey in the Village. They have mapped and surveyed the site. The parking study is complete but contains some errors that need to be corrected before it is distributed. Hopefully it should be corrected by the end of the week. We think there will be two conceptual ideas on how to reconfigure West Street. One plan consists of 90 degree parking which will generate the maximum number of spaces. Angled parking will be more convenient and safe but will cut into the number of spaces. It will be discussed by the Economic Development and Zoning Committee when completed. Mr. Koepke has been involved since the beginning and provided a lot of guidance to CDS concerning tree species and landscaping. There is no definite plan at this point. If this becomes a reality the ideal time for construction would be summer of 2012 while school is out and the construction of the school should be inside.

Mr. Andrews questioned the \$2000 uniform expense for the Maintenance Department and said he assumed that was in line for outfitting four people. Mayor Policastro said it is for their winter uniform per Code. Mr. Andrews asked if we needed to change the code. Mr. Wolter said it seems like a lot of money for winter clothing. Mr. Scheeser suggested staggering the purchase like we do for fire gear. Mr. Andrews said he does not know about commercial professional shoes and uniforms but \$2500 is a lot of money to outfit four people. Mayor Policastro said he did not know all that was ordered and Superintendent Scherpenberg will be at the next meeting. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Scheeser asked Mayor Policastro if he talked with Fairfax Mayor Ted Shannon regarding the safe route to school between Mariemont and Fairfax. Mayor Policastro said he talked with Mayor Shannon who said he is working with his Safe Routes to School grants and therefore was not interested in doing this project. He referred the matter to the Safety Committee if they wanted to do something in Mariemont. He urged the Committee to talk with people who live along the route for their input.

Resolutions”

“To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for Street Repair” had a second reading.

Ordinances:

“To Renew Current Contract for the Following Kinds of Insurance: Real and Personal Property, Comprehensive General Liability, Business Automobile and Other Coverages; To Pay Premiums” had a third reading. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Andrews to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-18-11 was adopted.

Granting Director of Transportation Authority to Maintain State Highways, Apply Standard Longitudinal Pavement Markings and Erect Regulatory and Warning Signs on State Highways Inside Village Corporation; Giving Consent of the Village to the Plowing of Snow and Use of Abrasives for Ice Control Under the Supervision of the Director of Transportation, State of Ohio” had a first reading.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk