

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
OCTOBER 16, 2017**

Vice-Mayor Marsland called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. to discuss plantings along Murray Avenue at Plainville Road and the proposed retaining wall on Mariemont Avenue. The following Council members were present: Mr. Brown, Mr. Hlad, Mr. Marsland, Ms. Palazzolo, Ms. Schwartz, and Mr. Wolter.

Mr. Marsland clarified that the discussion of the planting is for Murray Avenue median at Plainville by the new condominium. Council was given a plan design by Martin Koepke a few weeks ago by Rick Greiwe for an estimated cost of \$8900.00. At this time the Village has many projects on its plate so funding may be an issue.

Mr. Rick Greiwe said the plan uses a row of yews which grow fast to a height of three feet. It is similar to what is in front of the Mariemont Elementary School. The plan also calls for Winter King Hawthorn trees which are the same as the trees in the Village square. They grow to 15 feet high so they will fit within the Duke Energy requirements. The plan was designed with three objectives: 1. To beautify the entrance to the Village. 2. Mask the cars between the parking on Murray and the park and maintain the parking for the users of the Tennis Courts and 3. To use landscaping that is easy to maintain and fits the requirements of the corridor. The plans do accommodate a bike path if one gets built. If the funds are not available for the whole project he suggested just planting the bushes at this time and budgeting for the trees next year. There are three bids and the key is to pick a nursery that can replace the one or two plants that might die. If the Village wants to use another vendor Mr. Koepke said he would volunteer his services to look at the plants in the nursery. He is asking the Village to use some of the Duke Restoration Project money and use it towards the north entry. There were written commitments from the Village. One being that the Village would repave and put drains in Murray Avenue. Engineer Ertel hired IBI to do a plan and it was determined that the Village did not own Murray Avenue. He is still trying to find money from somewhere to get the work done. He has been working with Columbia Township and asked the Village to work with them to find collaboration to get this work done. If one or the other could be done now he would prefer to have the bushes because you get more immediate impact. The taxus bushes were selected because they stay green all the time and they hide the cars.

Ms. Palazzolo asked what is the available funding. Mayor Policastro said we have approximately \$18,000 left to finish the Murray median. The total that Duke Energy will give us is approximately \$35,000. He was told by Warren Walker, Duke Energy Representative, that he did not know how the Village got Duke to contribute the money as other towns received nothing. Mr. Greiwe said the key is to use the money to plant where you get the most impact because you will not be able to plant the whole corridor for that kind of money. Mayor Policastro said some of the money has been used to plant some of the trees in the corridor and in the Spring Hill area which had their trees clear cut as well.

Ms. Louise Schomburg, President of the Parks Advisory Board, said she has worked with Council member Schwartz to gather some ideas for the whole section of Murray. A straight line of plantings is not desired but to have a plan that is more decorative. In the past there have been plants there that were always green and were a type of viburnum shrub. They were planted along the Bluff when we had the landslide and they grew quickly. There are several types of viburnum which grow to fifteen feet in various shapes. They grow quickly, have fall coloring but do lose leaves in the winter. One concern with anything planted in that area is that vehicles do not stay on the road. The other recommendation she had was for a burning bush which comes in different heights and grow in a vase like shape. Some grow to ten feet and have vibrant red leaves in the fall. She looked for plants that will look decent and will grow well and will not be high in maintenance. They are used to break a view and create a boundary line. We are a Zone 6 so she would not recommend a plant under zone 4 so we do not have to worry about losing plants during an extreme winter. In her opinion these would be less expensive but she has not had time to talk with any nursery. Trees could be planted behind either plant. She said she would be happy to work with Superintendent Scherpenberg to price out both type of plants. In her opinion, Yew trees while very hardy also require high maintenance.

Mr. Troy Hawkins, 3817 Homewood Road, said he hopes that the work will continue along Murray towards Settle. He would like to see the bike path extended and asked if it was possible to use landscape funds. Mr. Marsland said we need to be cognizant of what we do at one end and we should do something in kind at the other end of Murray.

After further discussion it was agreed that Council liked the plan as a whole but wanted some alternative ideas for plantings. It was recommended that Ms. Schomburg and Service Superintendent Scherpenberg work with Mr. Koepke to come up with a good design plan with sustainability on a budget that would allow the Village to do some of the work this year and budget for some planting next year. It was preferred that the trees be planted first. Mayor Policastro said the budget for this year is really zero right now.

Mr. Marsland said the second agenda item for discussion is the Whiskey Creek hillside/Mariemont Avenue GSI proposal. He has tried to contact Suneisis and Terracon and he is not getting any response whatsoever relative to getting additional bids. We do have the solid bid from GSI with a five-year warranty for \$167,000. Mr. Brown said he did receive an email from Suneisis with a bid price of \$200,000.

Mr. Marsland said that Mr. Luken e-mailed Mr. Johnson with GSI to clarify the urgency of the project. He indicated on their three tier system: critical needs to be done immediately, urgent needs to be done soon, or not of immediate concern. This project rates urgent. Mr. Luken said his conversation with Mr. Johnson indicated that Mr. Johnson's recommendation is that the work be done before the end of 2017.

Initial discussion focused on the need to complete the project and it was unanimously recommended that GSI perform the work. Concern was raised over the drain pipe centered on said hillside that shunts water from downspouts at 6610 Mariemont Avenue and whose responsibility it is to mitigate the drainage before the initiation of the project. The timing of payment for the completed project was also discussed. Mariemont has the funds available in the General Fund to pay for the project, but the preferred method of payment is from the Permanent Improvement Fund that is replenished shortly after the first of the year. It was decided that Engineer Ertel and Mr. Marsland would make phone calls to our representatives at GSI for clarification on the drainage issue and financing.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer