

**Village of Mariemont
Regular Council Meeting
June 14, 2021**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Bartlett, Ms. Palazzolo, Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Rankin and Mr. Stelzer.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to excuse the absence of Mrs. Graves. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Rankin asked that the minutes be amended to show that the meeting to vote on the new Council Member will be a Special Meeting of Council, not a Committee of the Whole. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to accept the amended minutes for the Council meeting May 24, 2021. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Mr. Stelzer abstained due to his absence).

Communications:

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: May 2021 Monthly Report

*From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: May 2021 Monthly Report

*From Tax Administrator Darrah: May 2021 Monthly Report

*From Assistant Building Administrator Beatty: 2021 YTD Building Department Financial Report

*From Assistant Fiscal Officer Wendler: May 2021 Monthly Report

Mayor Brown introduced Ms. Joy Pierson, Community Development Administrator and Mr. James Noyes, Planning + Development Director from Hamilton County HUD Grants Program. They explained the benefits of joining the program and estimated funding for Mariemont for 2022/2023 to be \$26,234-\$29,513. In subsequent 3-year cycles (2024-2026) the estimated request amount will be \$39,350- \$44,269. The full presentation can be viewed on the Village website www.mariemont.org.

*Task Force EMS-Fire Charter. The purpose of the charter is to create a Committee made up of Mariemont Residents who will review and provide their recommendations and suggestions on how we should proceed with our Fire/EMS Department. Council agreed it should comprise of 7 people of diversity throughout the Village. Mayor Brown announced that Mr. Kramer will be at the next Council meeting to bring Council up to date on his consultant work. The desire is to put the Committee together at the next meeting of Council. It was agreed to post on the Village website request for those interested to submit their name and reason for interest to the Village Office.

*From Council Member Joe Stelzer: Discussion/Vote Outsource Mariemont Pool Concession and Proposal to Repair Bell Tower Batting Cage & Installation of Multi-Purpose Turf

Permission To Address Council:

Mr. Bob Van Stone, 4050 Lytle Woods, was granted permission to address Council. He was confused by Council's position on chain link fences when Ms. Palazzolo, at a prior Council meeting, read a list of criteria for those fences. At the last meeting, Ms. Palazzolo proposed treating all of them as nuisances, requiring immediate removal. The recommendation was to have the Building Department send letters to all property owners with chain link fences and require their removal within 3-6 months. He questioned what caused the change. This approach may place an undue financial burden on homeowners. It is also interesting that most of this burden would be on those north of Wooster Pike. It is confusing to those homeowners when chain link fences are allowed at the tennis courts and high school. He asked Council to consider going back to criteria-based removal and not permit the installation of new chain link fences. When a citizen reports or a building department representative identifies a fence in disrepair, the building department could send a letter requiring the removal of the fence. This would possibly reduce the immediate expense to the homeowner and allow for long term planning for the removal/replacement with a non-chain link fence.

Council discussed the reason for the decision with Mr. Stelzer stating he felt it was a bit heavy handed. It was a decision that was made by Council in 2017 however the legislation was never enacted. The current Rules and Law Committee met and affirmed the prior Council decision which was to mitigate all chain link fences. The proof of concept was when there were ongoing conditions that were not acted upon by the Building Department. It resulted in dilapidated chain link fences in the Historic Area. There is an appeal process available to residents. The criteria should be made available to the Zoning Officer.

Motion To Pay Bills:

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Fiscal Officer and Chairman of the Finance Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Friday, June 4, 2021, at 2:30 pm to discuss Mariemont possibly entering a cooperation agreement with Hamilton County which would give us access to their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee members Rob Bartlett, Kelly Rankin and Joe Stelzer, Mayor Bill Brown, and Joy Pierson and James Noyes from the Hamilton County Planning & Development department. CDGB is one of three grants that Hamilton County receives from U.S. Housing and Development. In 2021, CDGB received \$3.5 million. Mariemont is 1 of only 6 Hamilton County jurisdictions that currently does not participate in CDGB. The 41 jurisdictions in Hamilton County that do participate include Glendale, Amberley Village, Wyoming, Fairfax, Newtown and Madeira. If Mariemont joins the program, CDGB will receive more money from HUD. Mariemont in turn will automatically have access to 40%-45% of that money: 40% is estimated to be \$13,117 a year and 45% to be \$14,756 a year. The CDGB grant money must be used for specific projects, for example projects that benefit senior citizens, ADA compliance, historic building preservation and renovation, and code enforcement/property maintenance to name a few. Also, we can let the amount build up over time. It is not "use it or lose it". And to be clear, there are no requirements for creating low-income housing. Joining will also give us access to two other grant programs that we could apply for: Mini Planning Grants, which can be used for project such as business district plans, sewer system replacement plans, strategic planning, or identifying community development needs, and the Community and Economic Development Assistance Program (CEDAP), which can be used for large scale strategic projects for economic development. To participate in CDGB requires that council pass a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement of cooperation with Hamilton County, and then the Mayor sign the agreement of cooperation. In order for Mariemont to have access to funds in spring/early summer 2022 (estimated to be between \$26,234 and \$29,513), we need to submit the resolution and the signed agreement by July 16, 2021. The Finance Committee is recommending that we enter an agreement of cooperation with Hamilton County. If Council agrees, the Village Solicitor will draw up the Resolution for Council to vote on at the next meeting. In order to meet the July 16 deadline, the Resolution will need to be passed on an emergency basis.

The Solicitor has reviewed the Cooperation Agreement and has found it to be agreeable. The CDGB can also help the Village find new market tax credits and historical rehabilitation tax credits. On roll call; five yes, no nays.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met on June 10th to discuss the replacement of the Bell Tower batting cage and field turf installation. Present at the meeting were Health & Recreation Committee members: Stelzer, Graves & Lewis as well as Mayor Brown. Several years ago, the Bell Tower batting cage was destroyed by a falling tree. The Village negotiated a settlement with our insurance company that will partially fund the replacement of the batting cage. Mariemont Recreation Association and Mariemont Knothole ("Recreation") proposed a Conceptual Plan with a site for the replacement of the batting cage. They also propose the installation of donated field turf inside the batting cage and in a small area outside the batting cage. This additional area can be utilized for many purposes when the rest of the Bell Tower grass is wet or muddy. Recreation is seeking approval of the Conceptual Plan so they can proceed with fundraising and final plans. Recreation believes the current project will be fully funded by the insurance settlement and donations. Recreation will also begin working on a Master Plan for the entire Bell Tower complex including a solution to the bathroom and parking issues at this facility. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of the proposal and voted unanimously to recommend to full Council that the Village approve the Conceptual Plan for the area behind the "A" baseball field at the Bell Tower. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met on June 10th to discuss the outsource of the Pool Concession Stand to 365 Midwest Concessions. Present at the meeting were Health & Recreation Committee members: Stelzer, Graves & Lewis as well as Mayor Brown. Members of the Pool Board were approached several weeks ago with the outsource concept. 365 Midwest Concessions has successfully applied this concept to several pools in the Columbus area and desire to expand their business to the Cincinnati area. We contacted the Pool Facilities Manager in Upper Arlington, which outsourced their concession stands to 365 Midwest Concessions several years ago, and he provided a full endorsement of the vendor and the process. The outsource arrangement would begin as soon as possible. 365 Midwest Concessions will pay The Village \$500 and 10% of all sales more than \$10,000 for the right to operate the concession stand during 2021. 365 Midwest Concession will have full control of the stand including the hiring of employees. The contract will be for one year only and the terms will be re-evaluated for any future extensions of the contract. Operation of the Mariemont Pool Concession has generated a loss for many years. The Mariemont Pool Advisory Board and the Pool Manager were in favor of this outsource arrangement. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of an outsource arrangement and voted unanimously to recommend to full Council that the Village enter into an outsource contract with 365 Midwest Concessions. Mr. Stelzer said the person who was to be the General Manager took another position. It is not sure if this will this year or begin with the season next year. Mr. Stelzer and Solicitor McTigue are working on the contract. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to give the Mayor approval to sign the contract. The Solicitor will prepare a Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

4th of July Fireworks will be held on Sunday July 4, 2021, at Dusk. Mayor Brown said the Outstanding Citizen for 2021 will be announced prior to the start of the fireworks.

Village Office will be closed in observation of Independence Day Monday July 5, 2021.

Mayor Brown announced that the Village was awarded the Tree City Award for the 30th year.

Engineer Ertel said he is still working with Cincinnati Bell regarding the poles along the Murray Path.

Mayor Brown announced that Bob Van Stone will be working with Aileen Beatty to work as the Interim Assistant until a permanent replacement can be found.

Fiscal Officer Borgerding forwarded to Council an outline of what the Audit Committee will be doing and outlines the reporting relationship. We are close to naming the Audit Committee.

Resolutions:

“Renewal of 3.0 Mill Tax Levy in Excess of 10 Mill Limitation for Capital Improvements for the Tax Years of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025” had a second reading.

“To Enter Into Contract with XPEX for the Purpose of Enforcing the Building Codes Applicable to the Village and To Issue Related Permits; And To Declare Emergency” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, one nay (Dr. Lewis). Resolution No. R-21-21 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“Creating the Position of Zoning Officer for the Village of Mariemont, Establishing Compensation Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-23-21 was adopted.

Ordinance Amending Section 151.04 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances Regarding Fence Construction” had a first reading.

Mayor Brown and members of Council thanked Ms. Palazzolo for her years of service on Council.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer