

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
August 28, 2023**

Mayor Bill Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Ayer, Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Rankin, and Mr. York. Mrs. Brownknight arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to excuse the absence of Mr. Bartlett. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Minutes:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer, to accept the Council Meeting minutes from August 14, 2023, as written. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: July 2023 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown noted that there has been a 50% decline in the number of speeding tickets being issued. Chief Hines said some of that could be due to Officer Lyons being out for most of the year because of an injury and he has since retired. In the next couple of weeks that position will be filled.

*From Interim Fiscal Officer Rankin: July 2023 Bank Reconciliation/Financial Reports. Mayor Brown complimented Fiscal Officer Rankin on the report. Mr. York inquired about the pool numbers, from the PayPal account. Ms. Uhrig will run an updated report for pool and tennis after the pool closes in September. Mayor Brown and Mr. York both noted that pool manager Mike Lockhart had an excellent first season and he has done well.

*From Council Member York: Engineer's Estimate; Dale Park Statuary Project. Mr. York explained that MPF wants to go out for bid on this project. They would look to explore if this project can be done in phases and find out if they need to make adjustments because of the available funds or projected available funds. The next step will be to pass the Resolution that was tabled at the last meeting to allow Engineer Ertel to move forward.

*From Council Member York: Email Dated August 23, 2023, re: Centennial Council Report.

*From Perry & Associates CPAs: Management Letter Audit Years 2021 & 2022. Administrator Chuck Barlow discussed an item on the letter regarding records training. Every elected official needs to complete that training once per term. Mr. Barlow recommends that the administrative staff and Assistant Fire Chief Copeland complete the training as well. The next training is September 20th and a webinar on October 23rd and November 29th. It is a live three-hour webinar.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Marianne Schmidt, 3895 Oak Street, was granted permission to address Council. She noticed the item "Dale Park/Waldorf Park Plan" listed in the Health and Recreation Committee on the agenda. She wanted to know what kind of plan that is and why Waldorf is included in the name of the park. Mayor Brown explained that it is part of the larger scheme and plan for the Centennial for all of the parks. There had been discussions about possibly building an amphitheater in that area. The Waldorf name was left in there because it references proximity. Mayor Brown clarified that the park shall remain "Dale Park" and will not be changed. Mr. York suggested editing that item to avoid confusion. Mayor Brown and Mr. York met with the new director at Waldorf in order to maintain a channel of communication with the school. Ms. Schmidt shared other concerns about the traffic and parking around the school. It is a congested area during drop-off and pick-up. Chief Hines noted that it is a private school, and they would need to fund crossing guards on their own and it is difficult to find crossing

guards. Ms. Schmidt felt that the Waldorf School takes advantage of what is given to them, but they don't give back to the Village.

Mr. Paul Mace, 6639 Elm Street, President of Mariemont Preservation Foundation, was granted permission to address Council. He noted that MPF trustees Mary Beth York and Bob Van Stone were also in attendance. MPF has been working in close partnership with the Village and Mr. York on Centennial projects with the Dale Park Statuary Project and Dogwood Park being the two biggest projects. Everyone agreed that with those both being Village-owned properties that it was best for the Village to manage those projects. MPF has raised significant funds for both projects and continues to raise funds. MPF would like to see the Village go out to bid for the projects. They envision this work being done in stages. All the experts say the Family Statuary needs to be covered if we want to preserve it. As money is raised, they can see other stages of the project go through. Mr. Mace understands that Building Administrator Holloway and Village Engineer Ertel are managing the project, but MPF is seeking a partnership with the Village. Mayor Brown agreed that it would be a partnership.

Mr. Biff Black, 5 Spring Knoll Drive, MPF Treasurer, was granted permission to address Council. He wanted to make it clear that the Kleinger's estimate had three phases and MPF is really focused on the first one right now which is the area around the statuary, the hardscaping/landscaping, and the roof. He wanted to focus on the resolution that had been tabled because there is no point in getting new estimates when they could have a bid package. MPF has raised probably enough to cover the whole project at this point. Mr. Ayer does want the project to move forward but wants bids from the best contractors. He would like to have a preliminary estimated schedule for the work so that the bidders know we are serious about the project. Mr. Black suggested deferring that question to Mr. Holloway. Mr. Ayer said it is a big deal that MPF has raised enough funds for the project. After paying the Village \$131,300 and what has been paid to A359, Mr. Black estimates about \$200,000 has already been paid by MPF.

Mr. York explained that the bottom line is some of the funds are restricted and some are non-restricted. Currently none of the funding is restricted to Dale Park. Mrs. Brownknight's understanding was that the funds needed to be raised to cover MPF's vision. She clarified that she didn't think we had the funds to pay for the vision that was laid out for the statuary by A359. Mr. Black disagreed, saying that MPF has \$565,000 in unrestricted funds. Mr. Mace noted that we don't need the full amount of money to get started if we work in segments, which could help us raise more money as people see progress. Mr. Ayer noted that at some point soon a decision needs to be made as to where the unrestricted project funding will go. How much will go to Dogwood and how much will go to the statuary project and who decides that? Mr. Mace said that determination should come from MPF, but they are working closely with the Village. Mayor Brown noted that MPF has already decided how to fund this project. They have \$565,000 in unrestricted funds and they are willing to make a large contribution out of their private funds to move the project along. Mrs. Brownknight worried that we are leaving money on the table. Mrs. Rankin said if we try to do everything all at once that it is never going to happen. We should go out to bid for phases as we can afford them.

Mr. York noted that when Thomas J. Emery Memorial sent the letter of notification it was to the Mariemont Centennial Commemoration, not to Dale Park. He agrees that the best time to raise funds is before a spade goes in the ground. He doesn't think that the \$300,000 in unrestricted donations made to the Mariemont Centennial should all go to Dale Park. Mayor Brown suggested we un-table the legislation to authorize the solicitation of bids for the Dale Park Improvement Project and have the second reading. Engineer Ertel can put the bid package together. Solicitor McTigue agreed that it makes sense to proceed in such a fashion.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to pay the bills as submitted. On roll call: five ayes, no nays. Mayor Brown made note that the streetlight repair and the fire hydrant repair, which totaled about \$6500, should be reimbursed by the insurance company for the truck that was at fault for the accident at Wooster and Oak.

Committee Reports:

The Public Works & Service Committee met on August 23rd at 4:00 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Kelly Rankin, Committee Member Rob Bartlett, Committee Member Randy York, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, Village Administrator Chuck Barlow, and Mayor Brown.

The first topic of discussion was to decide which street should be recommended for application for the MRF (Municipal Road Fund) grant. Please see attached memo from Village Engineer Ertel for detail regarding the eligible roads. It was noted that should Pocahontas be selected as the MRF grant recommendation, all the construction costs of the Pocahontas rehab would be covered by grants.

The Committee recommends selecting Pocahontas Ave for the MRF grant application. Also discussed was the trash and recycling service for 2024. The contract with our current provider, Rumpke, has a one-year option with a 3% increase from the current year, which would raise the annual amount from \$295,146.00 to \$304,000.38 in 2024.

The Committee recommends continuing service with Rumpke for 2024. Legislation for the MRF grant will need to be passed on an emergency in order to submit by the August 31st deadline.

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight, to accept the report of the Public Works and Service Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mayor Brown referred the matter of evaluating the waste fee increase and applying that to the water bill to the Finance Committee.

Miscellaneous:

- Village offices will be closed on September 4, 2023, in observance of Labor Day
- Discussion/Vote Land Water Conservation Grant for Dogwood Park.

Mr. York went through his timeline, detailing his grant research/activity:

Thursday February 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I invited Congressman Greg Landsman to visit Mariemont• Infrastructure needs and Park Rehabilitation Centennial
shortly thereafter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• contact with Chris Dalton Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Landsman• requested I complete an application for the Community Project Funding• application was submitted
March 28th	Funding announced - we did not receive funding
April 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chris Dalton sends me details of Land and Water Conservation Fund• this grant is perfect for the centennial park projects
May 9th	Chis Dalton sends HUD information - suggests CDBG for funding
May 22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Met with our HCPD program manager April Gallelli• suggested we develop a 3-year CDBG• I have sent this proposal to the mayor and the Finance Sub committee• Due on November 28th• Congressman Landsman has agreed to write a letter of recommendation
June 15th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• email from Steve Johns of HCPD alerting of a MPA program with NKU• he sent an application and asked us to apply
June 26th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• presented this opportunity at the council meeting• Here are the minutes from that meeting:

	<p>*From Council Member York: MPA Program Partnership Application Draft. Mr. York said this is one of the grants that Mr. Dalton, from Greg Landsman’s office, thought would be really appropriate for park renovation as part of the Centennial. This program works with an MPA program who will help write the grant. It is an ODNR grant with a 50 percent match. It is a land and water conservation grant. He has completed the application and needs Council’s approval to submit. He feels the Village is a perfect candidate. Council agreed to go forth with the program and Mr. York will submit the application.</p>
June 27th	Submitted the NKU MPA Application
July 27th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had a lunch meeting with State representative Sedric Denson • concerning upcoming state capital appropriations process • prepared a one-pager ask and reviewed with the mayor • specific to the pool • commitment from representative Denson to support our project • and guidance on the process and how to best position our project
August 16th	received email that we were selected to partner with the NKU MPA program
August 23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • met with Darrin Wilson of NKU - classes started the next day • mayor in attendance - we discussed the process with focus on the LWCF grant
August 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • phone call from the mayor that we must suspend participation in NKU MPA program • told the mayor that Village Council should make that decision

Mayor Brown’s suggestion to Mr. York on August 24th was to put it on hold until further discussion could be had. Mr. York thought it should be discussed with Council before calling Darrin Wilson. He conveyed to Council how gratifying this experience has been, connecting with people in the community and with potential funders. People get very excited when they hear of the plans for Dogwood Park and for Mariemont. Mr. York has been receiving feedback that we are on the right track and that it is the right thing for the Village. He felt that we would not be able to be awarded funding for the pool from this grant based on a stipulation in their procedure guide, “Discrimination based upon residence is prohibited.” Mr. York’s recommendation is to stick with trying to apply for funding for the park. He fears it would damage our reputation if we were to change our minds and not apply. Mr. York clarified for Dr. Lewis, from discussions about the pool with Representative Denson, that if we proceed with the grant for Dogwood Park, there is another avenue to explore for grants for capital improvements at the pool. Dr. Lewis reached out to Emil at Envision to bring him up to speed. He had some good ideas and will get back to Dr. Lewis about the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant.

Mr. Ayer was curious if the NKY MPA program has ever gotten a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant. Mr. York said they have not, but the director is going to do a Zoom call with them in two weeks. Mr. Ayer had concerns about the time constraints. The bottom line is it is at least a year before you have a contract, if it is awarded. Mr. York thinks we could get spades in the ground by October of 2024. Mr. Ayer is concerned that it could take longer because it involves the National Park Service at the federal level. Mr. Ayer said the LWCF grant is where the big money potentially is because you can get as much as \$500,000 with a match. It is also a possibility that we could use it for the pool. Are we comfortable, as Council, that we should pursue the new stuff at Dogwood Park versus taking care of our existing issues with the pool? Which is more important? There is confusion on whether the pool would qualify or not. Mr. York does not think it is possible to pull it together for the pool in time to apply this year. Other Council members agreed and said it should be looked at for the pool next year.

Mrs. Rankin thanked Mr. York for getting everyone up to date and answering questions. Going forward, Mrs. Rankin would like to make that part of the process, being sure that everyone has all the information to make a decision. Part of the process going forward with the grant application entails having legislation. Council agreed to move forward, working with the NKY MPA on the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant.

Resolutions:

- “To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for the Dale Park Improvement Project” was tabled on 8-14-2023 after the first reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to un-table this item. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second reading.
- “To Appoint Steve Pipkin as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2023 and 2024” had a first reading.
- “Resolution Approving Grant Application with Ohio History Connection for the Boathouse; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis, to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mayor Brown, Mr. Ayer, and Administrator Barlow have reviewed the Boathouse a few times. The roof is in need of repair. They have a quote from Imbus Roofing for \$31,000. It is a complicated repair even though it only involves 36 shingles. This needs to be done soon, to avoid leaks. The quote includes gutter work and flashing. This is a competitive grant. They get about 50-60 applicants annually and only fund between a fourth or a fifth. The Village scores well because of our National Historic Landmark status, it is a contributing structure, it has the historic and community use aspect. Mr. Ayer is working on the application which is due on September 12, 2023. If we do get the grant, the Village needs to match 40%. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight, to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-37-23 was adopted.

Ordinances:

- “An Ordinance Authorizing Application and Contracting with Hamilton County for the Municipal Fund; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight, to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-15-23 was adopted.

Mr. York thanked Mary Beth York for organizing this year’s Taste of Mariemont. It went off without a hitch and was one of the best in recent years.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Interim Fiscal Officer