

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
October 9, 2023**

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

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

Minutes:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to accept the minutes as written for September 25, 2023. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: September 2023 Monthly Report:

*From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: September 2023 Monthly Report and Spending Request Form for temporary help for leaf season. Mrs. Rankin confirmed that it is within budget. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to approve the spending request for leaf season not to exceed \$12,000. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: September 2023 Monthly Report and Spending Request Form for heater unit replacement in Fire Bay. He stated that we are still running ahead in collections from last year but the 4th quarter typically trends down. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer, to approve the spending request, not to exceed \$9300, to replace the heater unit in the Fire Bay. The funds will come from the General Fund. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

*From Building Official Holloway: September 2023 Monthly Report/Spending Request additional costs for door handles, hardware prep/door/window installation not to exceed \$10,000. Mr. Ayer asked if Mr. Holloway would capture citations for non-compliant/non-maintenance of historic properties in his report. Mr. Holloway said no because he does not issue those currently, nor are they currently issued at this time. We started the rental inspection program a little over a year ago. Approximately 20% of all Village rental units have been inspected. We will start doing random exterior inspections and use that as a basis for encouraging owners to fix up the exteriors. He is hoping to not get to the point where citations are issued. It is important for owners to know they have to meet certain standards. CMC have new property management. Bill Knight with XPEX will be attending the inspections with CMC. He will include the update in his report next month.

Mayor Brown said the spending request is for the hardware for the door/windows for the Municipal Building. Due to inflation and supply chain issues, the cost of the materials has increased. The door and windows are ready for installation. In addition, it will require a locksmith to complete the installation. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to approve the spending request. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Mr. Holloway said he has reached out, but yet has a date that the work will begin.

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Syd Sabo, 3857 Indianview was granted permission to address Council. He wanted to reaffirm the position that his neighborhood wants the Trolley Line Park to be preserved as a recreational green space as it is today. He did not feel that Mr. Ayer's criticisms of his previous presentation deserve a response. But he will respond to Mr. Ayer's flippant comment that "perhaps I should talk to some people". He submitted the petition

that was circulated in June with 48 signatures wanting to preserve the park. The comments received while collecting these signatures can be classed as: 1) Yes, I will sign it 2) I will sign it, but I don't think it will do any good because I think the decision has already been made (to run a road through the park) 3) I won't sign it because I think the decision has already been made 4) I don't care either way 5) I am in favor of the bike path. What continues to bother him is the belief by many that this "road" is a done deal. As Jennifer Degerberger pointed out in the last Council meeting, the option to "do nothing" was never presented at the Kleingers meetings as an option. Having spent 55 years as a financial manager and small business owner, "do nothing" has always been an important option that must be considered. This option must be considered. He asked Council if the decision had already been made. If so, is it because The Crown wants this road through the Trolley Line Park, and they are ready and willing to pay for it regardless of the consequences to our neighborhood? What is the hook?..it's free? This is the one fact that bothered him from the start. Council may have hired Kleingers but Council is not paying, The Crown is. To him this creates a conflict of interest. Who is Kleingers really working for/ Whose best interests are they looking out for? Certainly not his neighborhood. The meetings sponsored by Village Council and led by Kleingers set off his internal alarm. When he learned the Kleingers reports and presentations were free, paid for by The Crown, everything became clear to him. Since Kleingers is being paid by The Crown, Kleingers is presenting only what The Crown wants and has approved. The Crown has no interest in what the residents of Mariemont want. The route variations presented were a smoke screen, the object was always to put the route along Murray and through the Trolley Line Park. He has spoken against Trolley Line Park from the start. He has suggested alternatives that allow the path through our neighborhood without sacrificing the park. Our message is simple; we do not want Trolley Line Park destroyed.

Mr. Ayer apologized if his comment came across as flippant. His comment was he would be happy to talk with residents regarding the project, process etc. With respect to the funding, there is a grant from ODNR that covers the majority of the project. The Kleinger's study was funded 50% by Mariemont private donors. The Crown is a non-profit and consists of private donors who are interested in alternative transportation and shared use paths. Choice One has the petition and they have an objective to work through this and to preserve green space to the point that is practicable. There will be a public meeting. In the meanwhile, he is happy to talk with any residents who would like to talk about the project.

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Manager, Mariemont Branch Library, was granted permission to address Council. She said October 14th there will be a viewing of the partial eclipse from 11:45-2:30 in addition to the regular story times.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight, to pay the bills as submitted. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Mrs., Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee which met on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 4:00 pm to discuss applying for a Hamilton County Planning & Development grant. Present at the meeting were Finance Sub-Committee Chair Rob Bartlett, Finance Sub-Committee Members Kelly Rankin and Randy York, Mayor Bill Brown, Part Time Administrator Chuck Barlow, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, Maintenance Superintendent John Scherpenberg, and Police Chief Rick Hines. Mr. York previously met with April Gallelli of Hamilton County Planning & Development about grants that are available from her organization. After reviewing various options, Ms. Gallelli recommended that we apply for three one-year Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The grants can be up to \$100,000 each year. Ms. Gallelli specifically suggested that our best chance of winning the grant would be to focus on universal access and service to seniors in our park enhancements. After discussing multiple projects, the sub-committee tentatively recommends that the Village apply for the Dogwood Park project for 2024, the swimming pool (specifically the baby pool) for 2025, and Dale Park for 2026. The deadline for applying for the grants is

November 28, 2023. Mr. York is meeting with Ms. Gallelli again and will check with her to see if these three projects are the best to put forward. If Council agrees with this recommendation, the Village Solicitor will draw up the necessary resolution to apply for these grants. Because of the November 28 application deadline, the Finance sub-committee is requesting that the resolution be passed on an emergency basis at the second council meeting in October, after Mr. York has met again with Ms. Gallelli. Mr. York will lead the effort to put together and submit the grant application. Mrs. Rankin said it is her belief that each grant will need to be applied for and submitted in November of the appropriate year. She does not believe there is a matching grant and that priority was given due to the projects with the greatest need for accessibility. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

- Leaf Season will begin Monday October 23, 2023, and end the week of December 18, 2023.
- Beggar's Night will be Tuesday October 31, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- The Council Meeting in December will be held Monday December 18, 2023, immediately following the Permanent Improvement meeting at 5:30. However, the Council meeting will start no later than 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Rankin will send information prior to the meeting for review for the Permanent Improvement meeting.

Resolutions:

- "To Reappoint Brad Lockhart as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025" had a second reading.
- "To Reappoint Tina Getter as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025" had a second reading.
- "To Appoint Aileen Beatty as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Year 2024" had a first reading.
- "To Reappoint Brad Lockhart as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2024" had a second reading.
- "To Reappoint Brian Kelly as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025" had a second reading.
- "To Reappoint Tom Gilmore as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025" had a second reading.
- "To Confirm the Reappointment of Michael Lockhart as Swim Pool Manager for Calendar Years 2024 and 2025" had a second reading.
- "To Reappoint Andrew Seeger as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2024" had a second reading.
- "To Reappoint Steve Spooner as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2024" had a second reading.
- "To Reappoint Mark Glassmeyer as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2024" had a second reading.

- “To Reappoint John Fakes as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2024” had a second reading.
- “To Reappoint Jon Morgan as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2024” had a second reading.
- “To Reappoint Barbara Whittaker as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2024” had a second reading.
- “To Reappoint Marcy Lewis as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025” had a second reading.
- “To Confirm the Reappointment of Chuck Barlow as Part-Time Village Administrator for Calendar Year 2024”

Ordinances:

- “To Amend Section 51.17 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances, To Increase Fees Collected for Garbage and Refuse Pick-Up” had a second reading.

Task List:

Mrs. Rankin said once the scrubber and bobcat are in place the painting of the fire hydrants will take place, hopefully by the end of October.

Mr. Ayer asked to have the Task List changed to reflect Mr. Ayer instead of Mr. York for the master plan of the pool facilities.

Mayor Brown said the trellis work at the Concourse is proceeding. He has ordered supplies for the next three sections.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Interim Fiscal Officer