

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
March 25, 2024**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Ayer, Mr. Bartlett, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Van Stone and Mr. York.

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

Minutes:

Mr. Bartlett noted a change to the minutes to reflect that Building Official Holloway will be updating the Project List. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the Council Meeting minutes from March 11, 2024, as written. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. (Mr. Bartlett abstained due to his absence from the meeting).

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the minutes as written for the Special Meeting of Council March 18, 2024. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Mr. Ayer abstained due to his absence).

Communications:

* From Arbor Day Foundation: Letter Congratulating Village on Tree City Recognition. Mayor Brown said a tree will be planted at the Madisonville Site.

*From Police Chief Hines: February 2024 Monthly Report/2023 Yearly Report. He commented that it was a good year for closing cases, thefts were down and the department met their goals for 2023. They have made a conditional offer to someone to help fill in the gap while Officer Howell is out on sick leave. He is also a coach at Mariemont High School, which is a plus that he knows so many of the local families. The new officer will continue on as two officers are slated to retire in late 2024.

*From Engineer Ertel: Email Date Dated March 20, 2024, re: Connector Library to Miami Road Plans. Mayor Brown referred the matter to the Safety Committee.

*From Mary Mertz, Director, director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources: Letter Dated March 14, 2024, re: Land and Water Conservation Funding Award \$500,000. Mr. York said he reached out to thank Congressman Landsman. This started with his Chief of Staff, Chris Dalton. He also sent a note to Steve Johns, Hamilton County Planning Development, who encouraged the Village to apply to work with NKU to develop this grant. He is working with the Mayor to prepare and present a proclamation.

*From Council Member York: Email Dated March 13, 2024, re: Community Revitalization Grant. Mr. York provided a recap of the grant applications due in the next several weeks/months, including the Community Projects Funding (which we do not have yet, but it can be earmarked for anything). Once we receive the application, we will need to figure out what and how much we apply for. The One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund (OTSCIF) Fund was submitted this week. The Community Development Block Grant must hold two public meetings, one of which was prior to the Council meeting. Council will need to decide a project or series of projects for 2024, 2025 and 2026. The Village received the mini planning grant for Dogwood Park. His recommendation would be to use the mini planning grant for 2024 for Dogwood Park and Isabella Park for 2025 and 2026. Council will be working with Engineer Ertel on the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) Metro Infrastructure Fund (MTF). In addition, Engineer Ertel will also work on the OKI Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and OKI Transportation Alternatives Grant (TA). Council agreed that further discussion will be necessary as the applications become available to address priorities and concerns. Overall, the earmark would be for Dogwood Park.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Hamilton County Public Library Mariemont Branch, was granted permission to address Council. She said the upcoming events at the library include an eclipse program with telescope and eclipse sunglasses. They will be holding an Introduction to Composting Program in April. For the summer they will be having a Touch the Truck Program where kids can come and see and touch Fire Trucks, police cars etc. They will be having treats such as popsicles.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to pay the bills. On roll call: five ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met on Monday March 11th in council chambers. Present at the meeting were Health and Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair), Susan Brownknight (Vice-Chair), and Matthew Ayer (Member). Also in attendance were Mayor Bill Brown, Rod Holloway, and several members of the Mariemont Tree Board and the Mariemont Preservation Foundation. The meeting commenced at 5:32pm.

The purpose of the committee meeting was to review:

1. The Plan to Address Roof Repair and Repainting of the John Nolen Pavilion
2. The Plan to Repair Stone Base at Livingood Park and to Replace Hedge flanking the Monument
3. The Plan for the Repair and/or Replacement of the Boathouse Roof
4. The Plan and Timetable for the Restoration and Preservation of Concourse Park
5. The Plan for the Crack and Fill for the Tennis Courts in Advance of the 2024 Season

The Committee reviewed two quotes to paint the John Nolen Pavilion. The Committee requested more specifics and details on each of the quotes to be reviewed at a subsequent meeting. The quote for the roof replacement is pending and the work to perform the tree work around the structure has been approved.

The Committee reviewed the plans to repair the stone base at Livingood Park. Quotes for the work are still pending and will be reviewed at a subsequent meeting. The Committee discussed options for the hedge that flanks the structure and will work with Jeremy from the Maintenance Department and Parks Advisory Board for options. The Committee will circulate flyers to adjacent homeowners in advance of the Committee meeting where the type and location of hedge may be recommended.

The Committee reviewed the quote and discussed the history and current condition of the Boat House roof. The timing of available grants to support the project was also discussed. The Committee does endorse the project and requests that it be added to the list of potential capital projects for 2024 and be evaluated in terms of urgency and necessity.

The Committee reviewed the evolution of the plan for the Concourse and reviewed the work completed and the projected timeline for the completion of the pergola. The Committee agreed to work with the Tree Advisory Board to develop a procedure for the containment and eradication of invasive species including Tree of Heaven

and Honeysuckle. Addressing these invasive species will be given priority before any additional tree work is done.

The Committee reviewed a request from the Tree Advisory Board to plant a tree at the Madisonville site in the area of the John Nolen Pavilion as part of their 2024 Arbor Day Event. The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the TAB be allowed to plant a tree in that location.

Engineer Chris Ertel is preparing the quote documents to solicit bids for the repairs to the tennis courts. This issue will be addressed at a subsequent meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Updates were given on the Boathouse Roof and the Nolen Pavilion. It was suggested to have a Committee of the Whole meeting to talk about grant opportunities on a larger scale matching grant opportunities with projects and then create a draft list prioritizing the projects. A professional engineering firm has been hired to determine the stability of the hillside and trees at the Concourse. Mayor Brown estimates 3 trees overhanging the pergola will need to be taken out. In addition, an independent Arborist is going to be asked to look at the trees in the area. Mr. York commented that Tennis Court #7 is in bad shape and asked Engineer Ertel to bid that one separately.

Miscellaneous:

Resolutions:

- “To Appoint Douglas Zemke as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for Years 2024 and 2025” had a second reading.
- “Authorizing an Increase in the Building Permit Schedule of Fees” had a second reading.
- “To Authorize Adoption of a Premium Only Insurance Plan” had a second reading.
- “A Resolution Authorizing the Village to File Applications to Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for Gas and Electric Aggregation” had a second reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to suspend the rules to allow for the third reading. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-17-24 was adopted.
- “To Authorize Fiscal Officer to Advertise for Bids for Waste Collection and to Pay for Advertising” had a first reading.

Ordinances:

- “To Amend Sections 151.125 and 151.127 Relating to Signage”. The first reading was March 11, 2024. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to table the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

- “To Amend Section 151.087 Permitted Obstructions in Required Yards and Add New Section 151.087.1.2.3.4.5.6 and .7” had a first reading.
- “An Ordinance Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit authority” had a first reading.

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

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer