

The Regular, Scheduled Meeting of the Council of The Village of Marble Cliff

1600 Fernwood Ave.

May 17, 2021

The Council of the Village of Marble Cliff held its regular, scheduled meeting on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm. in Village Hall at 1600 Fernwood Ave., in the Village of Marble Cliff. Those in attendance were Council President, Dow T. Voelker; Council Members: Charlotte Hickcox, Marnie Hoag, Matthew R. Jolson, Joanne Taylor, and Kendy A. Troiano; Mayor, Matthew P. Cincione; Yazan S. Ashrawi, Village Solicitor; Joshua Ford, Village Engineer; Administrative Assistant, Judith Ciccone, and Fiscal Officer, Cynthia A. McKay. No representatives of the press were present. Visitors were present

Mayor Cincione welcomed Charlotte Hickcox to the Council. Ms. Hickcox thanked Mayor Cincione and stated she is pleased to be on Village Council.

VARIANCES, PERMITS AND VISITORS

Mayor Cincione recognized Andrew Grainger, a Village resident residing at 1248 Cambridge Blvd. Dr. Grainger expressed several concerns regarding the recent work in Tarp Woods and the restrictions placed on park visitors. Dr. Grainger stated he was representing some of the unheard voices of Village residents and, particularly, the children living in the Village.

He stated there are very few places in the Village for children to be outside and enjoy nature. He stated many children and families have found great joy in Tarp Woods. He stated the removal of the honeysuckle has eliminated many fun places to play. He also said that children had constructed a bike path without understanding they were encroaching on private property. He suggested that the property lines need to be more clearly marked. Finally, he expressed concern that the use of temporary hammocks was not allowed.

He stated that many children had "rediscovered" the park during the pandemic and resulted in hours of fun and exploration. He stated he does not agree with the restriction on building huts and forcing visitors to stay on the paths. He stated some children are interested in speaking to Council and Dr. Grainger stated he would be willing to facilitate such a discussion. He also stated that, after the honeysuckle was removed and huts were destroyed, many of the children were reduced to tears. He stated he does not want to see Tarp Woods become a nature preserve.

Dr. Grainger asked for members of Council to meet with a group of concerned citizens to discuss the uses of Tarp Woods. He asked for a statement protecting the rights of visitors to build structures and paths in the park or a formally established rule prohibiting such activities. Finally, he asked for additional communications efforts be made from the Mayor and Council to residents. He stated the agenda and the minutes are not adequate or timely and suggested a newsletter be developed and distributed.

Mayor Cincione stated the general rules are to stay on the paths and not allow the building of structures in the park. He stated the Village has looked the other way with many of the structures. Mr. Voelker stated when the number of structures and/or the safety of the structures become a concern, the Village will remove them. Some of the concerns include the periodic influx of homeless people and the use of the structures for inappropriate or illegal purposes. Mr. Voelker stated parents need to inform their children that such actions may be necessary.

Ms. Taylor asked for clarification regarding whether the Village permits the building of structures in Tarp Woods. Mayor Cincione stated that building structures is not permitted, however, the Village tends to look the other way until concerns about the number of structures, the location of structures are raised or questions arise regarding the general safety of a structure or how it is being used and by whom.

Ms. McKay stated that the park was purchased as a "passive park" with trails and green space as was directed by the residents. Ms. Taylor stated the rules need to be enforced including the rule that dogs must be on a leash. Mr. Jolson stated he has built forts with his children and likes the idea of allowing the children to venture off the trails. He stated the property lines should be more clearly marked.

Mayor Cincione stated if the residents want to change how the park is used, then a process needs to be established for changing those rules. However, the Village is a government entity that is responsible for the public spaces and ensuring that those spaces are available to all who want to enjoy those spaces.

Mr. Voelker stated that most activity and decisions by Council are discussed for several months and rarely make decisions at a single meeting.

Ms. McKay stated she would send a blast email regarding the requirement that dogs must be leashed everywhere in the Village including in the parks. And would ask the police to issue citations to owners with dogs running unleashed.

Ms. Troiano agreed to produce a newsletter for distribution.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Receive - Mayor's Court Report, April, 2021
- 2) Receive – Building Permit Report, April 2021
- 3) Approval - Minutes of the regular, scheduled meeting of April 17, 2021 and special meeting of March 8, 2021
- 4) Approval - Financial Statements for April, 2021
- 5) Receive – April Tax Reports
- 6) Receive – Thank you notes – Cate Stanley and Kieren Bode – Falco Scholarship

Mr. Voelker moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Ms. Troiano seconded. Council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Cincione reported he has continued to be in contact with the organization developing the RAPID 5 system. He stated he expects the Village to be contacted for financial support.

Mayor Cincione stated he will initiate conversation regarding the purchase of property for expanding Tarp Woods.

Mayor Cincione reported the voters of the City of Upper Arlington approved the construction of a community center. He stated there may be an opportunity in the future for Marble Cliff residents to utilize the center.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Ford reported he cleaned out a drain at the top of the small stream in Tarp Woods to allow healthy flow. Ms. Ciccone reported the Village received a grant for purchase of planting in the newly cleared wetlands area of Tarp Woods.

Mr. Ford asked Council members for comments on the island design provided at the April 2021 Council meeting. Mr. Ford stated his recommendation that the island immediately north of W. First Ave. and Cambridge Blvd. and the island immediately south of W. Third Ave. be constructed. Mr. Voelker stated he thinks the mid-block islands are important for slowing traffic.

Council asked Mr. Ford to provide additional drawings and renderings to better visualize the impact of the proposed islands.

Council had a discussion of various traffic calming options.

Mayor Cincione stated that the scope of the Cambridge Blvd. improvements must be defined generally to apply for a Ohio Public Works Commission loan or grant. Then the plan can be further refined.

Mr. Ford provided a report on the use of coal tar sealants. He reported that professional asphalt contractors do not use coal tar sealants and products with coal tar sealants are not generally available at stores such as Home Depot or Lowes' for "do it yourself" projects. Local commercial driveway and parking lot repair contractors do use products with coal tar. Council thanked Mr. Ford for his research. No action was taken.

Mr. Ford left the meeting at this point.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ashrawi had no report for Council

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT

Ms. Ciccone explained the changes in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System's health insurance program which have created the need for her to resign her position with the Village of Marble Cliff effective in July 2021.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Ms. Troiano moved approval of the May 2021 bills totaling \$84,461.74. Mr. Voelker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jolson moved approval of the amended April 2021 bills totaling \$164,740.31. Ms. Hoag seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. McKay reviewed the 2020 Tax Summary provided to the Village by Central Collection Agency.

Mayor Cincione introduced the first reading of O-2659, An Ordinance adopting a Budget for the year 2022 for the Village of Marble Cliff. Ms. McKay reported she will have numbers for the budget at the June meeting. There will also be a Public Hearing on the proposed budget on June 21, 2021.

Council asked staff to float several date options for a dedication ceremony at Tarp Woods.

Ms. McKay asked for Council approval for disposal of following obsolete property

1. Dell Printer– value – less than \$1,000
2. Wooden Folding Chair – broken – value – worthless
3. Wooden Coat Rack – value – less than \$1,000

Mr. Jolson moved approval of the proposed list of obsolete Village property dated May 17, 2021. Ms. Hoag seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Troiano agreed to work on a quarterly newsletter to Village residents.

Ms. Taylor reported the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has not met since the last Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Cincione introduced the second reading of O-2657-21, An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to execute an agreement to renew the policy with Ohio Government Risk Management Plan for property, liability, wrongful acts, automobile, bond, crime, inland marine and electronic data processing insurance.

No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Council reviewed the annual notice of the jurisdiction's opportunity to oppose the renewal of liquor permits issued to businesses within the Village's jurisdiction. No action was taken.

ADJOURN

Ms. Troiano moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hickcox seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Cincione adjourned the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Approved by:

Submitted by:

Dow T. Voelker
Council President Pro Tem

Cynthia A. McKay
Fiscal Officer