

CAC: May 23rd 2022

Mayfield Village Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes May 23, 2022

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on Monday, May 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Present: Bob Haycox (Chair/Ward 1), Mary Salomon (Ward 1), Joanna McNally (Ward 1), Sara Calo (Ward 2), Lorry Nadeau (Ward 2), Rosemarie Fabrizio (Ward 2), Sandy Batcheller (Ward 2), Katie Parker (Ward 3), Mark Granakis (Ward 3), and Marilyn LaRiche-Goldstein (Ward 4)

Absent: Mary Singer (Ward 1), Peter Gall (Ward 4), and Loretta Williams (Ward 4)

Also Present: George Williams (Council Representative), Jennifer Jurcisek (Council Representative), Steve Schutt (Council Alternate), Peter Batcheller (Resident), Patti Ferris (Resident), Scott Sipos (Service Director), and Diane Wolgamuth (Director of Administration)

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Haycox opened the meeting and asked the Committee if there were any changes to the meeting minutes from March 28, 2022, previously provided for review. There were none and the minutes were approved.

Village Beautification

Mr. Haycox thanked Service Director Sipos for coming to the meeting to talk to the Committee about his plans for Village beautification. Mr. Sipos stated that he is happy to discuss the beautification projects that he has on his radar. First, however, he would like to explain a little bit about what the Service Department does.

“The Service Dept. maintains over 60 acres of grass, including mowing, weeding, etc. We maintain 7 miles of paths, including picking up litter and tree trimming. We are responsible for making sure bridges are safe and we inspect bridges and paths regularly. We maintain all Village structures and facilities, including electrical and plumbing repairs, landscaping, cleaning, etc. This includes pavilions. We mulch all Village-owned properties and deliver mulch to residents. This year, we delivered mulch to 360 residences. The Service Dept. maintains all the sports complexes—soccer and softball fields, volleyball, tennis and bocce courts, Parkview Pool, etc. We also maintain the playgrounds. At the pool, we take care of the mechanicals, the chemicals, painting, etc. We are in charge of leaf pickup, snow plowing, and, as mentioned, mulch delivery. We work all special events, concerts, etc. We

help with Shred Day. We put up holiday decorations. We are responsible for road safety, sewers, concrete repairs, flowers, trees, and tree trimming. We are members and work with the Chagrin River Watershed Partners and the Euclid Creek Watershed. We clean and take care of trash at Village facilities, deliver tables and chairs to residents, pick up branches, maintain all retention basins, and work with all Departments and the Historical Society. We do all that with 14 men.”

Mr. Sipos explained that the following projects he has planned are somewhat limited by time, manpower and budget, so they may not all happen right away, but they are on his radar:

Civic Center – All the sandstone sidewalks around the building are broken and Mr. Sipos would like to replace them with concrete. He also plans to replace some of the old bushes with pines that can be decorated for the holidays and add flowers and additional shrubbery.

Gazebo – the old brick pavers around the Gazebo have shifted. Mr. Sipos stated that he would like to replace them with stamped concrete and create a nice dance area to be used during concerts. There is also a tree near the edge of the property that is in decline. He plans to remove it and replace it with a bed planted with trees and flowers.

Thornapple Corner – Mr. Sipos provided a landscape plan for the corner of Thornapple and SOM. after the gas vault located at that property is moved across the street (see attached). The plan includes adding mounds, trees and pavers. He stated that if Dominion starts work soon, this project may go forward by fall.

Parkview and N. Commons – Mr. Sipos described that the pond at this location needs to be dredged. He is looking into grant money and whether this pond is on the Sewer District’s system. He would like to run power and install a fountain. Members of the Committee responded that they thought this was a wonderful idea.

Heinen’s – the pavers in the patio are shifting and settling. Mr. Sipos would like to replace them with stamped concrete and re-design the walk. At this location, he described adding a circle of stone with another fountain—a large pot with running water.

Smokin’Q’s – Near the headwall by the restaurant, Mr. Sipos plans to install Blue Dune Lyme Grass. Across the street, he advised that people do not use the sidewalk and constantly wear a path that he has had to repair for many years. He would like to add a sidewalk connector and plant Blue Dune Grass on that side of the street also.

Worton Park – Mr. Sipos described that a house in the neighborhood has been removed in anticipation of the culvert replacement project. The old culvert headwalls were curved and covered with natural stone veneer and the new walls will be concrete. He and the Engineer are trying to emulate the feel of the old headwalls with iron fencing. The newly vacant property will be a dry retention area that fills with water during a storm and will recede quickly. The Service Dept. will plant trees there and maintain the area.

Bonnieview/Beech Hill – The Village received a grant to reforest this area. Mr. Sipos described that the property previously had a pump station on it. He provided a rendering showing the over 700 plants that were recently planted on this Village-owned property (see attached).

Mr. Sipos described that, throughout the Village, he wants to utilize plants that are maintenance friendly—like phlox and ivy. The Service Department already plants flowers at the Village entryways and at its properties and he does not feel that the Department can handle much more than that right now, as it is very time consuming.

Mr. Sipos concluded his presentation, stating that this year's hanging baskets are from Bretec's and were hung today. He described that there was a problem with the pots last year and they were not draining properly, drowning the plants. He went back to the old-style pots this year and is using super petunias and adding vines.

Mrs. Batcheller asked if some beautification could be done on Wilson Mills from SOM to Gates Mills. Mr. Sipos responded that the Village doesn't own those properties, except the right-of-way, which is narrow and doesn't provide much space. He described the new guardrail that was installed just a couple of years ago as the only area owned and maintained by the Village. Mrs. Batcheller stated that there is nothing appealing on either side of the road. Mr. Sipos reiterated that the Village doesn't own the properties and cannot landscape other people's properties.

Mrs. McNally asked if something nice could be done at I-271 and Wilson Mills. Mr. Sipos replied that the Village tried to do something there once but ODOT would not permit it and, again, it is someone else's property. Mrs. McNally stated that she would like to see an entryway sign there and would also like a sign near the retention basin on SOM near Highland Road to tell people what it is. Many people do not realize that it is a basin.

Mr. Sipos stated that he would look into signage and commented that the basins are not generally manicured. Mrs. Nadeau stated that she likes the rustic look of them.

Mrs. Fabrizio said that she wanted to thank Service and say that Shred Day was wonderful. She thinks it is a very good service offered to residents. Mrs. Nadeau complimented Mr. Sipos on his VOV articles.

Mr. Haycox thanked Mr. Sipos for speaking and commented that Mr. Sipos is clearly very passionate about his position.

Council Report

Mrs. Jurcisek reported that, as a result of this Committee's discussion, there are three pieces of legislation that have been introduced—one to increase the Mayor's salary, one to increase Council's salary, and one to provide a cost-of-living increase for both the Mayor

and Council. The ordinances will go through three reads and Council will vote on them in July. If they pass, they will be on the November ballot.

Mrs. Juncisek stated that Council also recently passed an ordinance to continue to ban fireworks. The State of Ohio is allowing people to shoot off fireworks on particular days, but surrounding communities, and Mayfield Village are continuing to ban them.

Mrs. Juncisek described that Chief Matias recently proposed the installation of four license plate reader cameras. They will be placed strategically and mounted on poles, likely near entryways to the Village. The cameras will read the plates of cars coming into the Village and the information can be accessed for 30 days. The County already has one such camera in the Village.

Mr. Granakis brought up HB 62 and the recent Supreme Court ruling on speed cameras. Mrs. Juncisek responded that these license plate readers are not speed cameras. Mr. Granakis stated that the Village is going to lose money from the State and should reconsider the speed camera program. Mrs. Juncisek said that she had seen that there was a Court ruling but was unsure about how much State money the Village could lose. Ms. Wolgamuth advised that the Village received approximately \$55,000 per year in local government funds from the State and, if any of the members had seen the recent news article, the Village has received approximately \$186,000 in fines for the first four months of this year. Mr. Granakis responded that the State money is guaranteed and the speed program money can disappear.

Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein commented that it is not about the money, it is about stopping speeders. Mr. Granakis stated that he feels the program is not stopping speeders and the Village is going to lose money from the State. Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein reiterated that the point is to stop speeders. Mr. Granakis asked, "How many have slowed down?" Mrs. McNally responded that she has noticed a change and believes the speeds are not as fast lately. Mr. Granakis stated that he feels the program is just about collecting money. Mrs. McNally said that as long as the Village is not losing money because of the program, and still making a profit, she thinks it is making a difference. Mr. Granakis asked if the program is meant to be for profit. Mrs. Calo commented that she is more concerned about the State deciding to take money away because of such a program. Mr. Batcheller commented that he is fearful about people being killed, especially those on motorbikes. He added that he feels people are slowing down because of the program.

Mrs. Juncisek stated that this is a hot topic. "There are people on both sides of the issue right here." She added that the program will be evaluated for its effectiveness over time.

Upcoming Events

Mrs. Juncisek mentioned that the Memorial Day ceremony is on May 29 at 1:00 p.m. at Whitehaven Memorial Park. Cruise Night is coming up on June 11 and volunteers are still needed. She has a sign-up sheet for anyone that is interested.

Other Matters

- Mrs. Calo provided real estate data that provides a one-year lookback at Mayfield Village (attached). She commented that there are never many homes for sale in the Village. Mr. Granakis asked if the data includes the new housing development on Highland. Mrs. Calo responded that it does. She added that with interest rates now at 5%, some buyers are pulling away from the market. She stated that there are also many cash buyers currently and there continues to be lots of competition for homes.
- Mrs. Nadeau stated that she read the recent news article in the *Sun Messenger* about the Mayor's salary and noticed that the article said the Mayor's position is part-time. She just wanted to mention, if people ask, there is no definition in the Charter. Mrs. McNally asked if information will be provided to voters. Mrs. Jurcisek stated that there will be more information in the VOV and perhaps a separate mailing or postcard prior to the election.
- Mrs. Nadeau stated that she thought Mr. Haycox's article in the VOV about this Committee's discussion about the Mayor's and Council's compensation was very good and very descriptive.
- Mrs. Parker stated that she liked the postcard that was mailed regarding the Beta Overlay and was able to keep it on her refrigerator. She thought something similar for this ballot issue would be a good idea.
- Mr. Schutt commented that the recent article had an error about the effective date of the 2.5% annual increase. That would not take affect until January 2024, while the other increases would be effective January 1, 2023. Mrs. Batcheller asked if health benefits were included. Mr. Schutt said they are not.
- Mrs. Batcheller asked if Progressive employees are back to work. Mr. Schutt described that mask and vaccine mandates have been dropped but so far only about 10% of employees are back in the office. Later in June, the Executive Team is meeting to review the situation and make a recommendation. "Any mandates will not be effective until later in the year."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.