

**Mayfield Village Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 27, 2022**

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on Monday, June 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center.

**Present:** Bob Haycox (Chair), Mary Salomon, Joanna McNally, Lorry Nadeau, Rosemarie Fabrizio, Marilyn LaRiche-Goldstein, Loretta Williams, and Peter Gall

**Absent:** Mary Singer, Sandy Batcheller, Katie Parker, Mark Granakis, and Sara Calo

**Also Present:** George Williams (Council Representative), Steve Schutt (Council Alternate), Patti Ferris (Resident), Rick Fienga (Resident), Tony Konkoly (Resident), Phil & Nona Stella (Residents), Daniel Russell (Building Commissioner), 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 May 23, 2022, previously provided for review. There were none and the minutes were approved.

**Progressive Solar Panel Update**

Mr. Haycox advised that Mr. Schutt needs to leave the meeting early and asked for an opportunity to provide an update on the solar panels installed by Progressive along I-271. Mr. Schutt stated that at the last meeting some members had questions about the solar panels so he brought some additional information this evening. Mr. Schutt advised that the installation is called the “Campus 2 Solar Array” and described that Progressive’s goal is to be carbon neutral by 2025. He believes they will begin to advertise that soon. Progressive has purchased two electric cars and they purchase green energy from a wind farm in Arizona. The power from the solar array does not generate enough power to run Campus 2 and the data center there. In response to the question about why the panels were not installed in straight lines, Mr. Schutt advised that the array installation was designed to avoid wetlands. Progressive was also able to maximize the available land available and purchase materials from a local company—Preformed Line Products on Beta Drive.

**Property Maintenance Ordinances**

Mr. Haycox thanked Building Commissioner Dan Russell for attending the meeting to discuss property maintenance. Mr. Russell stated that property maintenance is one of the most important issues in any city and falls under two codes--the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code covers a variety of violations and Mayfield Village ordinances cover

things like high grass and tree removal. Mr. Russell commented that that Mayfield Village properties are pretty nice, overall, but acknowledged that there are issues with a few houses.

Mr. Russell provided some photo examples of high grass and described that he cannot cite a property owner until the grass is at least 6" high. If the property owner does not cut the grass, he can send that Service Department to cut it and charge the cost to the property owner. Mr. Russell stated that he generally provides a Courtesy Notification and posts it at the house. Five days are given for grass cutting and, if not taken care of, he then provides a Legal Notice and gives them another five days. He explained that he tries to avoid taking people to Court, if possible. He prefers to see them spend their money on improving the property rather than on court fees. [Copies of the photos, relevant ordinances, and forms are attached to these minutes].

Mr. Haycox asked if court action is required before sending the Service Dept. to cut the grass. Mr. Russell said no, he can send them first. Mr. Haycox asked if one citation is provided for an entire year. Mr. Russell said he does not do it that way--once the issue is resolved, he views that citation as over.

Mr. Russell presented photos showing trash and debris violations. He described that he drives around the Village all the time and does not see much trash. Five-day notifications are provided for this violation as well. If people call to discuss the reason for the violation, he will listen and give them time to resolve the issue. Mr. Russell stated that other cities will go straight to court, but he prefers to work with people. "Ninety-nine percent of the time the issue gets resolved, and faster than going to court."

Mr. Russell moved on to examples of property maintenance violations. He described that a 30-day period is provided for compliance. If he sees that work is going on, he will work with the property owner. If nothing is happening, he will cite and go to court. Mr. Russell stated that he has not had to go to court yet, since starting with the Village a year ago. He described that there is a lot going on behind the scenes to avoid that.

Mr. Haycox asked if Mr. Russell drives around to look for violations or if they are based on complaints received. Mr. Russell responded that it is based on complaints as there are only two employees in the Building Department—he and a part-time inspector.

Mr. Russell continued reviewing the violation photos, describing that items left outside that should not be are a violation of the ordinance. "However, exterior chairs that are not pretty are not a violation." Rosemary Fabrizio asked if trash cans are permitted to be stored in the front yard. Mr. Russell stated that he was not aware of any ordinance prohibiting that. Ms. Wolgamuth commented that she thought that toters were not permitted to be stored such that they were visible from the street. [*Post-Meeting Note: Trash cans and toters must be stored out of sight of public streets and roadways per Ord 2011-32*].

Mr. Konkoly asked what the Village does about repeated violators and described a property in his neighborhood that is not well kept and, in his view, has numerous violations and

health issues, including illegal activity. Mr. Russell suggested calling the Police Department if illegal or suspicious activity is seen.

Mr. Russell reviewed the Village's tree ordinance that provides that dead trees must be promptly removed. Property owners are given 14 days for removal and, again, he stated that he works with people if they can't get the work done that quickly, as long as he sees effort to comply. The tree ordinance also provides that only three trees that are 8" in diameter at breast height can be removed from a property per year. Mr. Haycox asked if that includes dead trees. Mr. Russell clarified that no more than three live trees may be removed. He added that the ordinance is trying to protect the tree canopy and stop people from clear cutting their entire property. He described that he has seen contractors come through neighborhoods and offer to remove trees in exchange for the wood.

Ms. Salomon mentioned that there are many dead trees on the Metroparks property near her home. Mr. Russell responded that, once down, the Metroparks will not come in to remove them, preferring to allow them to decompose naturally.

Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein asked about rules regarding weeds. Mr. Russell stated that the same 6" height rule applies. If it is something like poison ivy, he can cite. He advised the Committee to call the Building Department any time they have issues that they believe need to be resolved.

Mrs. McNally asked who is responsible for sidewalk repair and mentioned that many blocks in her neighborhood are very uneven. Mr. Russell responded that property owners are responsible to repair their sidewalks, but the Village is recognizing that sidewalks are becoming a problem. Ms. Wolgamuth advised that the Village has a reimbursement program to assist residents with sidewalk replacement but recognizes that concrete prices have increased and it can be difficult to find a contractor to replace just a few blocks. This year, the Village is going to repair and replace uneven sidewalks in the Aintree Park neighborhood. Property owners are being offered an opportunity to pay the Village for their blocks at what should be a lower cost as a single contractor will be hired for the entire neighborhood. If the program is successful there, the Village plans to repeat the program in the Aintree North neighborhood next year, and likely Sandalwood, which is the only other side street in the Village with sidewalks.

## **Council Report**

Mr. Williams reported on the following:

- Cruise Night went well but a local business owner complained that the 3 p.m. start time interfered with his business as customers could not find anywhere to park. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of the earlier start time and Ms. Wolgamuth advised that it was likely that the start time would be later next year.
- The culvert replacement project is going forward soon in the Worton Park neighborhood. The culverts will be widened to take more stormwater and prevent neighborhood flooding.

- The Finance Director provided Council with an update on income tax refunds to people who worked from home during the pandemic. Currently, refunds are approximately \$700,000, which is better than anticipated.
- The three ordinances regarding salary changes for the Mayor and Council and a cost-of-living increase will be voted on by Council next month and, if approved, will be on the ballot for voters in November.

Mrs. Fabrizio asked if there was any organized opposition to the ordinances. Ms. Wolgamuth advised that she is not aware of any. Several members commented that they hoped the ordinances would move forward so residents would have an opportunity to vote. Mr. Williams said that this issue has been discussed for some time, but it looks like it will finally go forward.

### **Upcoming Events**

Ms. Wolgamuth provided the Committee with the flyer for the upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration at Parkview Pool and The Grove.

### **Other Matters**

Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein reported that Davey Tree did a good job trimming the trees in her neighborhood.

Mrs. Nadeau commented that the local CVS drugstore seems to be struggling. Mrs. Fabrizio stated that she heard they lost their manager and are short on staff.

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