

**Mayfield Village Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2022**

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center.

**Present:** Bob Haycox (Chair)/Ward 1 Mary Salomon/Ward 1  
Katie Parker/Ward 3 Alison Markovic/ Ward 1  
Sandy Batcheller/Ward 2 Joanna McNally/Ward 1  
Peter Gall /Ward 4 Loretta Williams/Ward 4

**Absent:** Mary Singer/Ward 1 Marilyn LaRiche-Goldstein/Ward 4  
Lorry Nadeau/Ward 2 Rosemarie Fabrizio/Ward 2  
Sara Calo/Ward 2 Mark Granakis/Ward 3

**Also Present:** George Williams, Council Representative  
Jennifer Jurcisek, Council Representative  
Steve Schutt, Council Alternate  
Allen Meyers, Council Member  
Paul Matias, Chief of Police  
Peter Batcheller, Resident  
Diane Wolgamuth, Director of Administration

**Introductions/Oaths/Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Haycox opened the meeting and introduced new CAC members Alison Markovic and Peter Gall. Mr. Williams administered the oath of office to Mr. Haycox, Mrs. Batcheller, Mrs. McNally, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Salomon and Mrs. Williams. Mr. Haycox asked the Committee if there were any changes to the meeting minutes from November 29, 2021, previously provided for review. There were none and the minutes were approved.

**Police Department Update**

Chief Matias introduced himself and described that the Mayfield Village Police Department runs its own dispatch center, operates 24/7, and currently has 19 full-time officers, 4 part-time officers, 8 full-time dispatchers, 6 part-time dispatchers, 2 administrative employees and 6 auxiliary officers.

He described an incident that occurred last Friday while two officers were on I-271 assisting a disabled car. Two police vehicles were hit by a man who was guilty of his fifth OVI and is currently at the County jail. Chief Matias stated that it is dangerous on the freeway, especially in bad weather. That danger to officers is what led to the recent photo enforcement program he instituted.

Chief Matias explained that he has been on the Department for 23 years and was on road patrol from the start. He stated that he has never seen speeds like those that have occurred post-Covid. Speeds doubled in January 2021 and his Department started doing traffic details during rush hour. It became too dangerous, so he decided “we could surrender the freeway or do something.” Chief Matias started the photo enforcement program in early December. An officer is posted on the freeway during morning and evening rush hours. The officer takes a photo and, after verification, a ticket is mailed to the violator. In December, over 1,600 warning letters were sent to cars traveling 76 mph or faster. Also, 32 tickets were issued for speeds over 90 mph. Chief Matias stated that he is hopeful that this program will get drivers to slow down. Actual citations were mailed beginning in January. Chief Matias advised that the Department is also trying to do more traffic details on side streets as one of the biggest complaints received from residents is speed in the neighborhoods.

Chief Matias stated that he tries to keep putting out information regarding scams. He has established a hot line and hopes that residents will utilize it.

Mrs. Batcheller asked how the Department follows up on mailed tickets. Chief Matias advised that the Village has hired a company called Gatso that takes care of it. The tickets are civil, so Gatso takes unpaid tickets to collection.

Mrs. Batcheller asked about any recent car break-ins in driveways. Chief Matias responded that after advising residents to lock their cars, the Village has been fortunate to not have that happening here lately.

Mr. Batcheller asked if the photo enforcement program puts more pressure on the police having to run plates, etc. Chief Matias explained that once the photo is taken, Gatso figures out who the owner of the car is and does all the legwork. He and his officers only have to do a final review before the citation goes out.

Mrs. McNally advised that her son had a similar experience with a flat tire on I-271 and thanked the Chief for his efforts. She added that her personal information was compromised last year during the unemployment scam and she asked if she should have filed a report with the local police. Chief Matias advised that it was not necessary unless she experienced a loss.

Mr. Haycox asked if carjacking is an issue here as it is in Cleveland. Chief Matias advised that a carjacking could happen anywhere but it has not been an issue here in the Village.

Mr. Batcheller stated that the senior snow removal instructions advise residents to call the police if the plow company doesn't show and asked what the police do in that situation? Chief Matias responded that residents are asked to call dispatch and the dispatchers will try to track down the plow company or someone from the Recreation Department. The Police Department does not have equipment to help plow residents' driveways.

Mrs. McNally asked if Your911 is still being utilized. Chief Matias said that it is and explained how the App works. He also described that using Your911 in an emergency results in faster response time because calls are routed directly to Mayfield Village Dispatch. Once signed up, users will also get emergency notifications.

Mr. Haycox asked, “What is the most common crime committed in Mayfield Village?” Chief Matias responded, theft from vehicles and property damage or vandalism. He added that dealing with mental health issues is also widespread

and it seems that those issues have increased. Most complaints received are for speeding on side streets and loose or barking dogs.

Mrs. McNally asked if drug and opioid use is coming down. Chief Matias advised that it is still a problem County and Statewide, but not so bad in Mayfield Village.

Mrs. Batcheller asked if the Village is doing more training for police to deal with mental health issues. Chief Matias stated that last year a 40-hour training course was completed in addition to regular training. One of the most challenging aspects is finding help for people. He advised that they generally start at Hillcrest Hospital and the staff there has been very helpful.

Chief Matias concluded by reminding the members to call the Police anytime. "We are there 24/7 and you should feel free to 'bother' us anytime."

### **Council Update**

Mr. Williams stated that, for the benefit of the new members, Council meets twice per month—a Caucus and a voting meeting—and all are welcome to attend. He introduced the Council members in attendance and advised that he is the Council representative assigned to this Committee.

At the last meeting, the Committee received information about a new zoning designation for Beta Drive and John Marquart, our Economic Development Manager, explained the zoning overlay. Since then, Council held a public meeting and afterward the new overlay was approved to go to the voters in May. The overlay allows property owners to increase the height of their buildings and reduce the size of setbacks. The biggest concern expressed at the meeting was from SOM Court residents who were concerned, but Mr. Marquart did a great job explaining what the actual impact would be.

The Metroparks started its annual deer culling season from January 18 through March 17. They will be closing entrances and trails when the program is active. Mrs. Batcheller asked if they use bows and Mr. Williams advised that they use noise-suppressed rifles.

Mr. Williams described a situation that arose at Council where residents appealed a decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals and said that they did not know that they had to pull a permit in order to install a shed in their backyard. He told the members to make sure they call the Building Department when doing expansions, putting up sheds, etc. The Building Department is a great resource and will help make sure the project gets done correctly.

Mr. Schutt asked if there was a place where all resident information is located for people to know what they are required to do. Mrs. McNally added that many residents also don't know about all the amenities the Village offers and things they can request. Ms. Wolgamuth advised that there is a New Resident Packet that is mailed to new residents and is available on the website. She said that she will update it and make sure it includes a list of items for which permits are required. She suggested that perhaps it could be provided to all residents rather than just new residents.

Mr. Williams asked Ms. Wolgamuth if there are any upcoming events. Ms. Wolgamuth advised that the calendar is quiet right now and the next events were the Easter Party in April and Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast in May. All senior and

regular programming is ongoing. She added that the remodeling of the restrooms and kitchen is expected to begin in late February or early March.

#### **Future Topics for Discussion**

Mr. Haycox asked the members to think about issues that they would like to discuss at future meetings. He stated that the Village is not doing much construction or building right now and is in a maintenance phase. Mrs. Parker stated that she likes having Department Heads come in to discuss current issues and let us know how we can help out. Mr. Haycox agreed and stated that we will be inviting Recreation Director McAvineu again. Mrs. McNally stated that she is interested in beautification and community identity. Mrs. Salomon stated that she would like to hear from the Service Dept. Mr. Haycox responded that the Service Director was just here, but we could invite him again.

Mr. Williams stated that this committee was involved with the construction of the new Community Room and suggested a discussion about what challenges or opportunities exist there. Mr. Williams added that wildlife continues to be an issue. Mrs. Parker agreed, stating that she saw another coyote in her yard. Mr. Haycox asked that any ideas for future topics be sent to Ms. Wolgamuth.

#### **Any Other Matters**

Mrs. McNally asked if the Chief had any information or recommendations for updating an old alarm system. Chief Matias stated that he has a Ring camera and finds that it is easy to defeat. He added that an alarm system is very dependent on what you want it for. He cautioned that "you get what you pay for" and cheap systems might not be reliable, might not do what you need, and can create a false sense of security. Mrs. Batcheller stated that the Ring system works well to protect packages left on the porch.

Mrs. Parker suggested that most homeowners' insurance provides discounts for certain types of security systems and it makes sense to contact your insurer before purchasing a new system. Mrs. Jursicek reminded members that the Police Department will keep an eye on residents' houses if they are advised that someone is going out of town.

For the benefit of the new members, Mr. Haycox asked everyone to go around the table and introduce themselves. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wolgamuth  
Director of Administration