

MINUTES OF RAVENNA CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
November 13, 2018

The Meeting of the Ravenna City Planning Committee was called to order by Chairperson Rob Kairis at 6:16 P.M. Present were: Matt Harper, Paul Moskun, Andrew Kluge, Amy Michael, Bruce Ribelin and Joe Bica. Also in attendance were Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Kim Cecora; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Parks & Recreation Director Judy Watkins; Police Chief Jeff Wallis; and Fire Chief Geoff Cleveland.

Mr. Kairis said there were two items on the agenda. The first item is customized programing.

Ms. Watkins stated that customized programs are programs that an individual or a business would ask the parks department to do such as a seminar, team building, etc. Then there is a cost associated with it. Stated that these programs are successful. Stated that they have had several community groups come to them for a customized program. Further stated that the department needs to bill for these programs. In order to bill, they need a contract. Stated that she is asking for an ordinance that will allow her to enter into an agreement with individuals or businesses to carry out these programs. Mr. Cimino is drafting the legislation. These programs are all off site.

Mr. Kairis stated the fees are only \$45.00 and that seems low. Ms. Watkins stated that it is only for 45 minutes and is covering our costs and it is promoting people to come to the RAC.

Ms. Watkins stated that the prices were based off what Kent State University Student Recreation and Wellness Center charges.

Ms. Watkins further stated that this is a good outreach to the community.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present to forward the issue to Committee of the Whole for further action.

Mr. Kairis stated the next item is murals.

Mr. Kairis stated that the Community Leadership Institute and NDS went to Houston, Texas for some training. Stated that there is a grant for \$4,00.00 for a project.

Don Everett stated that this group would like to put murals in the downtown area. He presented two posters that were made by Kent State University students to show what Chestnut Street could look like as an art district. With the \$4,000.00 they would have murals on the crosswalks, some sidewalks and on some sides of buildings.

Mr. Everett stated that this group has been getting together to discuss murals. Stated they are coming to Council to ask what steps they need to take in order to make this happen. With the grant money, the murals have to be done by August 31, 2019.

Mr. Everett stated that one idea is to have canvas on the side of the building. They would like to do a mural of what the old courthouse looked like on canvas. They would also like the high school students do this mural.

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Mr. Everett stated again that they have this \$4,000.00 grant and they would like to utilize it and have murals in the downtown area.

Mr. Everett stated while talking with people at the conference in Houston, they stated that with the murals, they noticed an increase in foot traffic in their downtown area. Stated that they took pictures of sides of buildings in the city where they would like to place some murals and create a pedestrian walkway. (by the movie theater) He stated the idea is to make Ravenna more pedestrian friendly and to give people a visual arts look. Stated that they want the murals to be about the history of Ravenna.

Mr. Finney stated that currently there is nothing on the books regarding murals. Stated that as long as it is not considered a sign then they can do what they want to. Discussed writing an ordinance to prevent some negative murals that could pop up that wouldn't fit in the historical district.

Mr. Kairis added an ordinance would provide structure and guidance. Stated that he would like to put together a task force to get this done sooner rather than later.

Ms. Michael stated that Mr. Everett's group has done so many nice things for the community and that she is excited to see this happen.

Mr. Everett is to give Mr. Finney names to be on this committee. This should be a five member committee, one council member and Mr. Finney. They should write an ordinance and present it to Council.

Mr. Silenius stated that they should keep this as simple as possible. Mr. Kairis stated that they need sufficient control so it doesn't get out of hand.

Mr. Silenius stated that the Design Review should not be involved in this.

Mr. Finney stated that the Design Review Committee will not be the committee to review this. Once guidelines are in place and they meet the city's guidelines, then they are approved.

Mr. Kairis stated that most of the activity will be downtown and wants to make sure there isn't any conflicts. Stated that the ordinance has to be clear. Stated that there needs to be consistency.

There being no further business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Robert Kairis, Chairman
Planning Committee