

**MINUTES OF RAVENNA CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**January 13, 2020**

The Meeting of the Ravenna City Planning Committee was called to order by Chairperson Rob Kairis at 5:55 P.M. Present were: Amy Michael, Tim Calfee, Paul Moskun, Matt Harper, Christina West and Andrew Kluge. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Kim Cecora; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Fire Chief, Geoff Cleveland; Larry Silenius of 123 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio; Finance Director-elect, Brian Huff; Larry Silenius of 123 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio and Deena Tannert of 784 East Main Street, Ravenna, Ohio.

Mr. Kairis said the first item on the agenda is satellite dishes. The last he recalled they were waiting on a couple of things. The law director was looking into the legal ramifications if a resident had no other recourse but to put a satellite dish in their front yard, if that would pose some sort of risk for the City. He thought Mr. Finney was going to send somebody out to test somehow to see if that was the case.

Mr. Finney said he tried. The person said he would do it and then didn't and he hasn't been able to find anyone else willing to do that.

Ms. Dubinsky said the issue is on the agenda for discussion only. The law director asked them to have a meeting regarding this. The resident they are referring to, the case actually got thrown out of court because there was no resolution. It just kept going in circles. She went out and met with the installer and a resident. He insisted that was the only place they could get reception. She thinks the law director's thinking on it is to either amend the ordinance in some way or completely take it off the books and repeal it. It's getting harder and harder to enforce. They are just spinning their wheels with it. There is only one complaint she's had on satellite dishes.

Mr. Kairis asked why the judge threw it out of court.

Ms. Dubinsky responded that there wasn't enough documentation as to why the satellite dish couldn't be there.

Mr. Kairis said because there is an ordinance in place that says it's not allowed to be there.

Mayor Seman said judges do object to some of the legislation in place from time to time, like the non-conforming use one. Their take on it wasn't correct.

Mr. Finney said that it was more than just zoning. He thinks the FCC was involved with it or something.

Mr. Kairis said that other municipalities have similar ordinances. It seems odd that they would throw it out. When this satellite legislation was updated in 2002 or 2004 when the dishes were smaller. He doesn't know what to do with this. He doesn't think they necessarily need to move forward and he'd like more information. If it's unconstitutional in some way, they should be given a legal opinion.

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Ms. Dubinsky said that she asked Mr. Cimino to be here but apparently was unable to attend. He did say they can't tell a resident who to have their service with when they are paying for their own service. When there is an installer who comes out and says this is the only place a dish can be, what do they do?

Ms. Michael said she can understand that; who are we to question. It's not within their expertise to know this.

Mr. Moskun said there are a handful of exceptions where it can only be in a front yard.

Mr. Kairis said the ordinance does not provide for any exceptions.

Mr. Moskun said as an example, it was some time ago a neighbor of his couldn't put it on either side of the house; one side was a concrete driveway and the other side of the house backyard was very, very limited. If you don't get persistent with some installers, they aren't going to put it on the roof.

Mr. Kairis said that isn't an exception to the ordinance. It's just the convenience for the installer. Even if the only place they could put a satellite dish is in the front yard, that doesn't mean that it invalidates the ordinance. There are alternatives to satellite dishes too. It's not like you're prohibiting somebody from getting the fundamental service which they can get through cable or other means. He would like to hear directly from the law director. It may be there was some specific reason this particular case didn't go forward.

Mr. Calfee said when this came up before, his sense was that a lot of them thought having that restriction, no satellite dish in the front yard, was appropriate and good. To just say we're not going to do it. He doesn't know. At that time, he felt it was fine and appropriate. There might be a lot of things a person might not be able to do. They might not be able to put the sewer or down spout above ground, run it across the front yard all of the way to the street. We say they can't do that he wouldn't want to give up on it so soon. He thinks it is an appropriate restriction.

Ms. Dubinsky said she thinks the law director's point was, can we deny a resident that service if that's the only place the dish can be.

Mr. Moskun said he can see what Ms. Dubinsky is saying because a resident might be forced to go to a different carrier if they really like the service they have.

Ms. Dubinsky said who is to say that if they even go with another carrier, they aren't going to be told the same thing as far as placement of the dish. She thinks it would be better if they can talk to the law director.

Mr. Kairis said the next item on the agenda is the tower lodge improvements. He asked if these are the improvements they are authorized to money to fix the kitchen, etc.

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Mr. Finney responded in the affirmative. The money was already appropriated. They are going to be very close to the \$50,000.00 according to the estimates he received. He is asking for the authorization to go to bid. The improvements are all in accordance with the plans drawn up by the architect. He's hoping the drawings will be done in the next couple of weeks. As soon as they get legislation to authorize the bidding, he'll get it out and hopefully will get started in March.

Ms. Michael asked if once this is complete, they'll be able to rent it out.

Mr. Finney responded that according to Judy Watkins, yes. She would like to rent it out. They get calls very often. He thinks the goal is to make it ADA compliant. Currently the bathrooms are not ADA compliant. The one door is 26" wide. Both doors will be changed plus one bathroom will be compliant. The kitchen will also have accommodations for ADA compliance.

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

Mr. Kairis said the next item is a request to accept the ODNR grants applied for a few months. They are the Educational Pollinators in the Park and the Wildlife Kids for Conservation. Those grants have been awarded at \$500.00 each. Now they need to accept, record and appropriate the funds.

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

Mr. Kairis said the next item is a request for an appropriation for 450 West Lake Street.

Mr. Finney said they need to appropriate \$5,266.05 to purchase the property.

Mr. Cecora said it was appropriated in January, 2019, Ordinance No. 2019-006. The funds were appropriated. Those were never encumbered. It just rolled until the last week of 2019 and somebody asked about it and they looked and the appropriation had fallen off. They have to hit the reset on this. The intent is to do the same transaction.

Mr. Finney said once they take ownership of the property, he will get bids to get the surface stuff off the property, remove the fence, building, etc. and he's working on authorizing the demolition for the little house next door. He's hoping at that point, the land bank will step in. His vision is the City will own both parcels and remain green space. The other neighbors have cleaned up that property pretty well.

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

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Mayor Seman wanted to mention that the census is this year. He's been attending meetings. They are pushing really hard to get everybody counted this year. They'll be hearing more about this as they move along. April 1 is the target date. After that, if people have not participated, then they will be going door to door. They are trying to cut that down. There are different ways to respond to it; on line, by mail, on the phone. The funding we get depends on these counts. So they don't want to miss people. There is one day where they will go out and try to count all of the homeless but in this case, they need it for the census.

There being no further business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Clerk of Council

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Robert Kairis, Chairman  
Planning Committee