



**Ravenna City Council**  
**Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 18, 2022**

**The public meeting was held in person in City Council Chambers.**

Council present: Acting Council President Amy Michael, Rob Kairis, Cheryl Wood, Tim Calfee, Christina West, and Matt Harper.

Also in attendance: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis, Interim Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Larry Silenius, Mike Bogo, DeAnne and Jim Wade

**The Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairperson, Cheryl Wood.**

**The first item was approval of CHIP Grants.**

Ms. Wood stated that the CHIP grant is utilized for owner occupied housing repairs and that they have already been awarded. The collaboration CHIP grant has been applied for with Streetsboro, Portage County and the City of Ravenna, adding that it is a two-year contract.

- The item was moved forward

**The second item was a MOA with the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office.**

Mike Bogo addressed Council to explain the process that the property has to go through in order to get permission to demolish the building located at 218 Main St. He stated that a review of the property had to go through the State Historic Preservation Office, the National Council of Historic Preservation, and the Portage County Historical Society. Mr. Bogo said that the MOU represents the agreement between all the parties to memorialize the building upon its demolition. He explained that per the MOU, a historical marker must be erected, and the remaining wall must be fixed up and weatherproofed. He clarified that the building is not historic, but it is in the Historic District therefore a historic marker must be placed.

Ms. Michael noted the current mural on the building wall that will be demolished, and Mr. Bogo stated that another mural could be painted on the remaining wall.

Mr. Bogo stated that the current archway crossing Park Way will stay.

Mr. Calfee inquired as to how the archway will be put into the new civic space plan and added that he does not want the arch to be a controlling factor on the design.

- The item was moved forward

**The third item was authorization to appropriate funds for Rayann Pkwy.**

Ms. Wood stated that Mr. Finney has done a great job at finding grants to get the roadway mostly financed but that additional UDAG funds may need to be utilized for the remainder of the financing to get the road in place.

- The item was moved forward

**The fourth item was support for an application for a Brownfield Grant.**

Ms. Wood stated that there is a time sensitive grant available to clean up the old engineer site on Cleveland Rd. and that the Brownfield Grant deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup>. She said that the item would be to give NDS approval to apply for the grant.

- The item was moved forward

**The fifth item was a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA).**

Ms. Wood stated that the DORA had previously been discussed and that recently Council has received letters from businesses in support of a DORA being implemented downtown. She said that Main Street Ravenna would help implement the DORA but the City would own and control the details of the DORA.

Ms. Michael stated that it would be a great opportunity to have a DORA available for downtown events.

Mr. Kairis stated that that laws have changed and a municipality the size of Ravenna would only require two participating liquor establishments, adding that he is in favor of a DORA. Items that would need to be discussed are the DORA layout and when it would be made available.

DeAnne Wade of West Main Street Winery and Brewery addressed Council to express her support of a DORA downtown and stated that it would bring more foot traffic to downtown, likening it to Garrettsville.

Ms. Michael suggested a work session to discuss details with business owners and to discuss public safety and sanitation.

Mr. Moskun added that there are a handful of people against the DORA, including addiction counseling services in town.

- The item was moved forward

**There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 P.M.**

**ATTEST:**

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**Clerk of Council**

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**Cheryl Wood, Chairperson  
Community & Economic Development**