



Ravenna City Council
Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2022

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

Council present: Council President Andrew Kluge, Amy Michael, Rob Kairis, Paul Moskun, Cheryl Wood, Tim Calfee, Christina West, and Matt Harper.

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor, Amy Adams, Jim and DeAnne Wade, Cliff Soudil, Larry Silenius, John McFarland, and Diane Smith

The Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:42 P.M. by Chairperson, Cheryl Wood.

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

Ms. Wood stated that the DORA workshop met with Main Street Ravenna and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the different facets of the DORA regulations and rules to iron out details. She explained a list of details and stated that the Mayor would have to fill out an application and submit the request to create a DORA to City Council. Ms. Wood stated Main Street Ravenna would help facilitate some of the details, which would include purchasing DORA cups, communicating with participating businesses and the sanitation plan.

Mr. Kluge added that a sanitation and public safety plan will be written first. He stated that addresses for boundary lines could be assisted by the Engineering Department.

Ms. Michael inquired about additional police officers on duty, and it was stated that there is no need to add additional officers at the moment.

DeAnne Wade, owner of West Main Street Winery introduced herself and explained that not much has been going on downtown in the last two years and that the boundary can be reined in if needed. She said that a DORA would help the city move forward with more events.

Mr. Calfee suggested to make the boundaries small and then expand later.

Jim Wade, owner of West Main Street Winery introduced himself and asked what the concern is regarding the DORA. He stated that his customers want to enjoy being able to drink outside and during events, adding that a problem already exists with people drinking illegally downtown.

Amy Adams, President of Main Street Ravenna addressed Council to state that the purpose of introducing a DORA to downtown Ravenna is to help businesses and to encourage them to stay open, while also encouraging visitors to explore and stay downtown.

Ms. Michaels stated that the city needs to take a chance and that people want a DORA.

Ms. Wood stated that a DORA is a way to encourage more businesses and people to come visit downtown.

Mayor Seman explained that there are mandatory red and green participation stickers given to all the businesses within the DORA boundary to help guide DORA participants to businesses that allow alcoholic beverages within their business and which businesses do not.

Mr. Kluge suggested mimicking what other cities have done with their hours and days to help guide the City in creating their guidelines.

Mr. Kairis stated that DORA's are a new concept still and that the City needs to be careful.

Mr. Kluge stated that he will gather information for a review of the application and iron out times. He said that the Mayor will have to file the DORA application to Council, and then there are a series of steps that need to be taken to comply with the procedure for applying for a DORA to the State. A public hearing will be required in order to pass the DORA ordinance from Council and then it will be sent to the State of Ohio along with the DORA application.

- The item was moved forward

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

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