



**Ravenna City Council
Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2023**

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

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

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Cliff Soudil, Larry Silenius, John MacFarland, Lou Dudek

Planning Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:15 P.M. by Chairperson, Rob Kairis

The first item was a Wildlife Step Outside Education Grant.

Mr. Kairis stated that the grant is for the same type of archery event that was held previously by the Parks and Recreation Department and that the City will be contributing an additional \$350.00. He explained that the event will be held in Kent because they are trying to do more combined events in the county.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was discussion regarding a dog ordinance.

Mr. Kairis explained that a resident gave a presentation to Council on a dog issue that he had encountered and was seeking a solution. He stated that the State does allow for municipalities to create ordinances regarding animal ownership and said that other cities do limit the number of animals that they allow a resident to own.

Ms. Michael asked if the property was a rental, and it was stated that it is. She said that people will be upset if the City tries to limit the number of animals that a resident can own, and that the Dog Warden is unable to help with that concern.

Ms. Wood expressed her concern for the safety of pedestrians with the dogs so close to the sidewalk.

Ms. West asked about an Animal Control Officer and explained where it is stated in the codified ordinances. It was stated that the City does not have such a position anymore. Ms. West stated that it is mandatory within the City that dogs wear tags at all times and noted that the dogs do not have collars or tags in the pictures that the resident provided to Council.

In reference to the fence that is adjacent to the sidewalk, Mr. Finney stated that he is unsure if they had come to the Building Department prior to putting up the fence.

Mr. Kluge suggested that the Dog Warden come speak during the public comment section at the regular Council meeting to explain what he is able to do and what other cities have enforced.

Ms. Wood addressed the issue of the placement of the residential mailbox that is behind the fence line where the dogs are and stated that the Post Office is refusing to deliver the mail due to the uncertainty of the dogs behavior towards strangers.

Mr. Kairis stated that the City needs a reason to be able to knock on the residents doors.

Mayor Seman stated that the Dog Warden does go door-to-door to check dog tags.

- The item was for discussion only.

Management Update

Mr. Finney explained that the Building Inspector has resigned and stated that he would like to go into a contract with Portage County to utilize their inspectors and that it will need to be put in place as soon as possible.

Mr. Kairis stated to clarify that the County employees will be the City inspectors as needed.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Rob Kairis, Chairperson
Planning Committee**