



**Ravenna City Council
Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2025**

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

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

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jake Smallfield; Service Director, Tim Contant; City Engineer; Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Larry Silenius, Cliff Soudil, Greg Francis, Eve Francis, Cynthia Miller, Barbara Niemiller, Carmen Laudato,

Planning Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:17 P.M. by Chairperson, Christina West

The first item was a \$2,880 grant award from the Ravenna United Fund.

Ms. West called the Planning Committee meeting to order and asked committee members to review past planning topics—such as nuisance lighting, short-term rentals, and public comment during meetings—to ensure no unresolved items were overlooked. She explained that the first agenda item was a \$2,880 grant award from the Ravenna United Fund to assist with Safety Town flooring replacement, with the organization covering half the cost. It was confirmed that the grant had already been awarded, and the committee agreed to move the ordinance forward. Mr. Calfee and Ms. Michael both praised the new Parks Director for his enthusiasm and community engagement.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was a resolution of support for Osborne Park.

The next item was a resolution to support negotiations with Norfolk Southern for property near Osborne Park.

Mr. Finney explained that acquiring the strip of land would unify the park and allow for future development such as an amphitheater, parking lot, and trail connection into downtown.

Council members emphasized that the effort was about revitalizing a once-blighted area, not simply adding parks.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was the final appropriations for Sunbeau Valley Farm.

Ms. Lorence explained that the item is requesting authorization for final appropriations related to the purchase of Sunbeau Valley Farm. She stated that the distribution of funds will be among the General Fund, Park CI Fund, and RLF funds.

Ms. Michael thanked Ms. Lorence and her department for their extensive work on securing and finalizing the purchase.

- The item was for discussion only.

The fourth item was safety buildings and City Hall.

Ms. West summarized ongoing community education efforts and upcoming steps toward placing a 0.25% income tax levy on the May ballot.

Ms. Lorence reported that three marketing firms had submitted qualifications to assist with public education about the levy.

Mr. Kairis reminded the committee the City has to comply with new state laws prohibiting advocacy spending and to keep messaging strictly educational.

Mr. Finney estimated the addition would increase costs by roughly \$5 million, but several Council members supported the idea, citing long-term savings and the opportunity to consolidate city operations. The committee agreed to move forward with a resolution of necessity for the income tax levy, including City Hall as part of the plan.

- The item was moved forward.

The fifth item was the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Kairis presented the Comprehensive Plan, noting that it had been nearly two years in development and recommended that Council take time to review it fully once copies were distributed.

Ms. Wood described the plan's purpose as a blueprint for future zoning and land use based on the city's current assets and needs. The committee agreed to keep the item on the agenda until all members could review the document.

- The item was for discussion only.

Management Update

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Christina West, Chairperson
Planning Committee**