

MINUTES OF STREETS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE MEETING
April 16, 2012

The Meeting of the Ravenna City Streets & Sidewalks Committee was called to order at 7:14 P.M. by Chairman, Jack Ferguson. In attendance were Sharon Spencer, Fred Berry, Frank Seman, Bruce Ribelin, Amy Michael and Fran Ricciardi. Also attending the meeting were Bob Finney, Kelly Engelhart, Kim Cecora, Tim Stephens, Bob Wain and Donna Swigart of 528 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio

Ms. Engelhart said they have been getting calls in the service department from residents asking for signs for a number of different issues in their neighborhoods. They are really trying to bring these to Council so that there is legislation behind what the sign says. If there is no parking on the street, they can only ticket if there is legislation in place that says the no parking sign is permitted to be there. Previous administrations, there apparently was a frenzy with signs and they're trying to streamline that now.

Ms. Engelhart went on to say that the first issue is that there has been a long term problem with large, tractor-trailer trucks using Harris Street and Sycamore Street. The property owner is really trying to do good things in maintaining his property and has been very frustrated with those trucks, basically cutting his corner because there isn't enough turning radius. Most of the city streets have not been made for 18 wheelers to be turning. One of the solutions was, if they could put a NO THRU TRUCK sign on Harris Street to try to limit the number of trucks cutting through there. They could still have access to Sycamore. Apparently they like to cut across Harris from Chestnut Street. The resident says he has surveillance cameras. He also takes down license plate numbers and he would be willing to call the police department if he has some legislative backing that something could be done, if he is monitoring that corner.

Mr. Seman asked where the trucks are coming from and why they are on Chestnut Street.

Ms. Engelhart said she thinks they are coming from Prospect or Chestnut and cutting across Harris to get to Sycamore instead of coming down Main Street.

Mr. Finney said that a power pole on that corner has been replaced at least twice since he's been with the city. The sidewalk is elevated. The dirt just keeps eroding. It's difficult to tell whether they are going to or coming from. It's evident that trucks can't make that turn very well.

Ms. Engelhart said the resident is requesting a NO THRU TRUCKS sign. He would actually like a guardrail along there but there is obviously a cost associated with putting a guardrail. Her opinion is that the trucks are just going to hit the guardrail and they'll be constantly replacing it. She would rather see the sign. If they are the same trucks that keep cutting through there, then they can put a stop to it.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

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Ms. Engelhart said the next request is the new Sub and Dog shop on Chestnut Street right across from the court house, has requested 30 minute parking spaces in front of his business; similar to Guido's in front of their business. He does have patrons who would like to come in and get a sub but can't find a parking spot in front of his business because people are there for two hours. The business owner is requesting two 30 minute parking spaces in front of the business. It again becomes the downtown parking issue. Hopefully, they can provide more parking spaces in the future. Ms. Macomber has talked about doing a whole study for the downtown area.

Mr. Ricciardi said it's hard to find parking. There are people who park in the Prosecutor's office for the courthouse or adult probation, etc.

Ms. Engelhart said she thinks they should look at a collaborative grant with the county and try to make a parking deck where the county lot is currently.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Ms. Engelhart said the last item is no parking on Avon Court. This is a little street that dead ends right off of Main Street. It is a very narrow street. This was brought to Ms. Spencer's attention by one of the residents. They're not sure if it is a neighborhood dispute between a property owner and a rental property type of thing but there are people who are parking on the street. The rental property owner says they are permitted to park on the street. That is true. There is no legislation in place saying no parking. But, if you are trying to back out of the driveways that are short and there are people parking on the street, it is dangerous. She just went down there and looked at it. There are only about eight houses on the street.

Ms. Spencer said that for the size of the street, that really is a large number of homes.

Mr. Ricciardi asked how many are owner occupied and how many are rentals.

Mr. Finney said he would think it's about 50%.

Mr. Ferguson said he is afraid this is the first of many, unfortunately.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Jack Ferguson, Chairman
Streets & Sidewalks Committee