

MINUTES OF STREETS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE MEETING
February 13, 2012

The Meeting of the Ravenna City Streets & Sidewalks Committee was called to order at 7:11 P.M. by Chairman, Jack Ferguson. In attendance were Sharon Spencer, Fred Berry, Bruce Ribelin, Scott Rainone, Amy Michael and Fran Ricciardi. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Joseph Bica; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Service Director, Kelly Engelhart; Water Plant Supervisor, Tim Stephens; Parks & Recreation Director, Elaine Van Hoose; Law Director, Frank Cimino; Donna Swigart of 528 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio and Marc Resnik of 1102 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio; Donna Spinelli and Rich Barnoskis of 824 Collins Court, Ravenna, Ohio.

Mr. Ferguson said that this issue doesn't fall under Streets & Sidewalks Committee but there is a couple here. They are from Collins Pond Court and they have a noise situation from a factory across the street on the other side of the tracks between wheels, frames, compressors, etc., it is causing quite a noise problem. He contacted Mr. Shafer the next day and he'd just gotten out of the hospital. He told Mr. Shafer the situation and asked to give them a call to get something set up so they are aware they are not ignoring the situation and try to set up some kind of a timeframe. Mr. Shafer had been instructed to stay out of the elements. He asked Mr. Shafer to at least give Ms. Spinelli a call to let them know he is aware of it. He found out that just the other day that Mr. Shafer had not called them yet and he went back into the hospital and he was not able to get out into the weather to do this. He is the person who is responsible to get this done. It hasn't been forgotten and they are not going to let it go away but he has to work with Mr. Shafer on it. They will both come out with the decibel reader and find out exactly what can be done.

Ms. Spinelli asked if they'll be going into and out because the last time, it went in, she can tell them exactly what night he was there. She was sitting on her front porch. They actually brought in people to work at 7:30. That is well in advance of their typical starting time. They were prepping for that. You'd hear little pings. They said they couldn't even force the aluminum rims to fall over. A few minutes after Mr. Ferguson was there, she was walking the dog and you could see the cars were pulling out of there and the train went by right after that train goes by, guess what falls over. It was very loud. It was like a whole pallet of them broke loose. They said they don't start letting trucks come in until around 7:00. They were loading trucks at 5:20.

Mr. Ferguson said he explained to Mr. Shafer that there is a situation they know when he's coming to do this and they're not making the noises. He told Mr. Shafer they need to do this unannounced so they can get a more, true picture.

Ms. Spinelli said they typically start at 8:30. She noticed that the past couple of nights it wasn't that noticeable. Friday they were really quiet but she found out they weren't working that night.

Mr. Ferguson said he would try to get in touch with Mr. Shafer again as to when he thinks he will be able to do it. It seems to be an ongoing situation. If push comes to shove, they may need to find another avenue.

Ms. Spinelli said a few years ago the piece of equipment on the outside, it exhausts air, they were made to move it. It's back. Either that or it's a new piece of equipment and then with that huge air compressor, that's the vibration. Once they turn off their lights and their TV, you hear that in the house, it's a constant humming.

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Ms. Michael noted that she was by there earlier today. She slowed down and had her windows down and didn't hear much going on at all.

Ms. Spinelli said she doesn't know what goes on during the day because she is at work.

Mr. Barnoskis said he was off for about three months in September through the first of the year. It goes all day long.

Mr. Berry said he has driven by there and actually pulled into the parking lot and stopped, rolled the windows down on several occasions and he hasn't heard anything. Maybe they weren't open. Maybe he was just there at the wrong or right times of day.

Mr. Barnoskis said that it's random. Sometimes it'll actually just kick you out of bed.

Mr. Berry said that being that it is a manufacturing facility, it probably all depends on when they have materials coming in and what time they get to restoring it.

Mr. Barnoskis said ordinarily they do ten hour shifts. They shut down about 5:30 in the evening and start up about 8:00 again.

Mayor Bica asked what the zoning is in that area.

Mr. Finney said that it's zoned industrial. Unfortunately, they are permitted to do what they do.

Ms. Spinelli said that is with the exception of the noise ordinance. Is it 24/7 that they exceed those acceptable noise?

Mr. Finney said that the decibel level is specified in the ordinance.

Ms. Spinelli said they were told by the city a few years back that there was really basically nothing they could do.

Mr. Finney said that it's his understanding that they are able to produce that noise level 24 hours a day because they are in that zone but he would have to look at the code.

Ms. Spinelli said they exceeded that with the decibel reader. Then they were pretty much told there was nothing that could be done. The city evidently interviewed and talked with Mr. Kanga.

Mr. Finney asked if it's just because the door is open and if they shut the door it would help.

Mr. Barnoskis said they have a compressor running right outside 24 hours a day; a pull behind air compressor. It sound like a truck sitting in his driveway.

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Mr. Finney said he doesn't know if that is permitted. If that was permitted as part of the planning and zoning commission's approval for that business then they would have permission to do that. If that wasn't part of their business that they tried to add onto their business, then it is something that would have to come back to planning and zoning commission for approval to operate something on the exterior of the building.

Ms. Spinelli said there wasn't any manufacturing there when they purchased that house. The most noise she heard was the train coming and going. Does the train go by and is it loud? Yes. When they whistle. But does she expect the fact that it's here. It's gone.

Mr. Ribelin asked if they're getting any kind of odors or if it just the noise.

Mr. Barnoskis said they don't get any odors.

Mr. Berry said that when they moved into their house, American Truck was there.

Ms. Spinelli said it was not noisy at all. There's manufacturing across the road also.

Mr. Ferguson asked if it could be checked to see if that compressor came about without planning commission approval.

Mr. Finney responded in the affirmative stating he would let Mr. Ferguson know.

Mr. Ferguson said he would keep the residents informed. They are not going to resolve the problem tonight.

Mr. Finney said in the past, it was the banging of the rims. One of the issues he remembers is that the doors were open. If they would just shut the doors, it would help out with some noise reduction.

Mr. Barnoskis said that as soon as it starts getting warm, they open the doors and the windows. It seems like it's a game to them.

Mr. Ferguson said originally they were doing the unloading outside. They got them to do it on the inside. They'll get down there with the decibel reader before much longer so they know what is going on. There is no guarantee they will get this handled within the next 30 days but they will get on it and talk to Mr. Kanga. He can't guarantee that the answer is going to be totally acceptable to the residents. At least they will can check to see if it falls under the chronic nuisance and if the noise level is too high. They will work on it and not forget them.

Mr. Ferguson said the first item on the agenda is the intersection of Prospect Street and Highland Avenue.

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Mr. Finney said that both of the issues are related to the same. Ohio Edison is coming through, replacing several power poles throughout the city. One of them in particular is effecting the flashing beacon at the intersection of Prospect and Highland, to remove a signal that is in the ordinance, they have to come before council to approve the removal of that signal. Obviously, over the last several years, the area has changed. The high school, obviously, is no longer there. It's his opinion that the Prospect Street flasher, the warning beacon is not necessary any more. When Edison sets a new pole, the city will have to pay to have that signal reconnected because the power is coming from one of the poles that is going to be replaced. The same token at Highland and Clinton. Recently he had, must have been the police who called to have the signal repaired. The light bulb burned out. So they replaced the bulb. Again, with the high school not there, this signal is not necessary. They don't know what is going to be there in the future but whatever is there, the developer would have to install a light. The flasher at Highland and Clinton has lived its life. It is not necessary. The crossing guard isn't out there holding traffic like they used to. He can't see a need in putting more money into this signal. His request is that he be allowed to remove these when the time comes.

Mr. Berry asked if there is any need for Clinton in front of the old high school to remain a one way street.

Mr. Finney said he wants to address that once the building is down because when they turn it to two way, they've got to put money into that signal; either that or remove the signal at Main Street and Clinton. Right now it is not signalized for the southbound. They are holding that until the signal study is complete.

Mayor Bica said the port authority has mentioned if they develop it, would the city consider putting parallel parking in there. So they are holding off on that, too vs. putting it back to two way.

Mr. Ricciardi asked if that is even with the large parking lot that is there now.

Mayor Bica said that the parking lot is coming out with the demolition. It may be desirable to have parallel parking if there are storefronts down Clinton. He's just suggesting they hold off making a decision on going back to two way on that until they know what potentially could go there. If it's not used, he thinks they should put it back to two way.

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 7:30 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Jack Ferguson, Chairman
Streets & Sidewalks Committee