

Ravenna City Council Public Health and Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2012

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:53 P.M. by Chairman, Bruce Ribelin. Present were: Sharon Spencer, Frank Seman, Fred Berry, Jack Ferguson, Amy Michael and Fran Ricciardi. Also attending the meeting Mayor Bica; Service Director, Kelly Engelhart; Finance Director, Kim Cecora; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Health Board member, Lucy Ribelin; Michele Kairis representing Coleman Foundation and Donna Swigart of 528 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio.

Mrs. Ribelin said that the Portage Health Task Force has not met since she last spoke with the committee. The next meeting date is tentatively set for March. They are hoping to meet every three months. At this point, they will see where they go past March. For the Ravenna Health Department, she met with Kelly Engelhart, Dorothy Jones and Mayor Bica. The health board feels at this time, it is important for them to consider hiring a part-time interim health commissioner, with the stipulation that it is interim because they're not sure where they are headed with the health department and whether they will be merging or not merging with any one in the future but they do need to put out feelers for someone who is qualified to help them move in the direction of looking at the possibilities. Ms. Engelhart has obviously given them a lot of leadership but she has many other hats and this is not her primary one. It's been unfair to expect the time she has already given to them. She was told that there is a salary budgeted for the year 2012 for a part-time health commissioner. The health department is only open 32 hours and that's why they are talking part-time and it may even be less hours than 32. Ms. Engelhart is going to work on a job description. The board has approved putting out the application and they are meeting again next week. They also have another issue they are looking at, changing the structure of the board so that they can add new members. After looking at the charter, it's not clearly spelled out in the charter how many members the board can consist of or who those board members qualifications would have to be; whether they are citizens of Ravenna or work in Ravenna and possibly live in another location. They put together some names they are considering asking. At this time, based on a legal opinion from the Law Director, they have to look at the charter first and then fall back on the Ohio Revised Code.

Ms. Engelhart said she spoke with Mr. Cimino this morning. If it is not clearly defined in the charter, the next step would be to go by ordinance defining the structure of the board of health through the ordinance. That is what he would recommend at this time, if they want to change how the board of health is structured, they do that through ordinance. If they do not have it defined in either the charter or ordinance, then it falls back to what is defined in the Ohio Revised Code.

Ms. Engelhart went on to say that what they are asking is that they proceed with changing the structure of the board of health and to add some additional members. Their feeling right now is that they need some different people to think about public health in a different way than the current board of health currently has been thinking as they look at possibly a consolidation or expanding in building public health in Ravenna.

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Ms. Michael asked how many people sit on the board of health right now.

Ms. Ribelin responded there are five members and Dr. Marcial who is the medical director. He doesn't have the ability to vote.

Mr. Ricciardi asked if they are looking to add people from outside the city if they are thinking either expanding or consolidating.

Mayor Bica said they would like to add three additional members in certain specialty areas. They have had some interest with a pharmacist who is a recent graduate of NEOMED who doesn't actually live in the city but would bring a wealth of knowledge and connectivity. And also trying to establish more qualified members to help go through these consolidation discussions. They are just trying to expand to get more brain power.

Ms. Engelhart, it's not all about they are definitely looking at consolidating or not consolidating. They are trying to figure out how they can better build the public health system for Ravenna to get more public health services than they currently have.

Mr. Ribelin said that what they are offering right now is fairly minimal.

Mr. Ricciardi said he doesn't have any problem going outside the boundaries of the community to get some of the expertise they are talking about. He thinks it might be helpful since they are talking redoing and consolidating various other departments. It might be good to bring in some outside sources.

Ms. Ribelin said they are also trying to establish a partnership with NEOMED. The person Mayor Bica was referring to would be a good look for that partnership, to use their expertise and knowledge to help them go in the right direction.

Mr. Seman asked if there is a full board there right now.

Mayor Bica responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Michael asked if the current board members happy on the board. Are there any who do not want to be on the board any longer.

Ms. Ribelin said there are a couple of members, she thinks are a little overwhelmed with the information they've gathered for the task force. They have gathered an unbelievable packet of knowledge. There are a couple of members who feel a little intimidated by it but whether they continue to stay, they haven't voiced their opinion. She thinks the direction of the board is definitely going to have to change from the minimalist that they've been doing to a much more aggressive proactive group. Most of them probably don't feel like they know how to do that, including herself, especially.

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Ms. Engelhart said that as they think about building this board of health, there is an association for local boards of health. There is training that is available for board members to be able to go to seminars and conferences to learn more about what public health is and what the essential services are that communities should be striving for, for their residents. They have an opportunity now, she thinks, with the ground shifting a little bit to think about some of these expansions and helping the board to gain that knowledge so that they can make good decisions in regards to the governance of our community.

Mr. Ribelin said that with an obese, aging society, they really need to be moving proactively.

Ms. Michael asked if they have considered tying in with Parks and Recreation in some way.

Ms. Engelhart said she definitely agrees with tying Parks and Recreation into public health. Even though Ms. Macomber wrote the grant for the farmers market, it really is a public health message. It's all about getting access of healthy fruits and vegetables to our community. The wellness initiative that Brad Ryczek brought forward is another example. Those are things that a health department should be bringing to them, not necessarily firefighters or economic development. They should be connecting all of the departments together around public health issues.

Ms. Michael said she would almost suggest a liaison between the two boards to connect the information.

Ms. Ribelin said that she could certainly bring that to the health board. The possibilities are endless and when they talk to Ms. Engelhart, she gets them very excited. She talks to them about a lot of things they aren't doing but could be doing that are going to make Ravenna a very desirable place for people to come live because they care about the health of everyone. They're looking out for their children's obesity. They are doing blood pressure checks, watching out for healthy foods and it's a very exciting time. They can really move forward if they get the right people involved and as many people as possible.

Mr. Ricciardi asked how many additional board members are they looking at.

Ms. Ribelin said they are looking at three.

Mayor Bica said that the board has come up with a list of recommendations so they are going to follow up on those. They are just looking to add three additional members.

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

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Mr. Ribelin noted the next item on the agenda is the Coleman Adult Day Services. In the past the city has financially contributed to the program for Ravenna City residents. They have asked Ms. Kairis to come and give a presentation.

Ms. Kairis said the city of Ravenna has been supporting elderly residents who live in the city, to come to adult day services by means of helping to pay for the programming. This has been happening since the mid-90's. Adult day care is not a free program and is rather costly. It's a program where they hire qualified staff, there are two nurses on staff, an RN and a LPN, a number of STNAs, social worker and they also provide different types of therapies on site. There is a van with two PRN drivers that are mostly picking up people from the outer edges of the county who aren't able to get a good service with PARTA. Unfortunately, many people are under the impression that Medicare pays for long term care. That's simply not true. Long term care is basically to care for chronic illness or disease, that which enables a person to have assistance with activities of daily living; that would be toileting, feeding, transferring, ambulating. That's the type of service where they come in. Medicare is an insurance program that primarily helps a person who has had some sort of a medical incident. The only type of long term care that Medicare will even consider paying is if a person has a broken bone or maybe a hip; they are discharged from the hospital and maybe into a rehab. or nursing facility to convalesce there and maybe receive therapy services. Those services are time limited by Medicare. They may be able to get some home health care for a very short period of time and maybe some other types of therapy services but then that's it. If the person has any kind of an extended illness where they need ongoing custodial care, Medicare isn't there to help pay for that. Individuals are paying for that either privately or they have depleted their assets or their income levels are very low so they are eligible for Medicaid. It's either private paying or Medicaid. The majority of people they provide services to at Coleman Adult Day Services are Medicaid funded individuals. They do have a number of people who make just over the 150% of federal poverty guidelines which is \$1,360.00 a month. If a person makes \$1,362.00 they are over the limit and need to spend down their assets to qualify for Medicaid. If you're an older adult and seeing a physician; paying for your medication, some that can be extremely costly, even with the Medicare supplement that is available now it can really rack up and cost people a lot of money. The city of Ravenna has assisted their own citizens; elderly people who live in Ravenna; to help pay for adult day services since the mid-1990's. The folks who receive their care can be in their facility up to ten hours. They are open Monday through Friday, 7:30 to 5:30. They receive an intake by the nursing staff. Their care plan is developed by the nursing staff. That care plan tells them exactly how to care for these folks. It tells them if the meals they are served need to be pureed or chopped; if the need fed; how many times per day they need assistance with toileting; it lets them know if they need to send down the hall for therapy services. They contract with a rehab. organization to provide on site physical speech and occupational therapy.

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Ms. Kairis went on to say over the years they have served many, many elderly residents from the city of Ravenna. This past calendar year, they provided 99 days of service that they billed the city. They bill the city \$35.00 per day of service. The individual or their family pays the rest of it. Included in that are the above services as well as three meals a day, breakfast, lunch and a snack as well as the personal care, activities throughout the day and of course, that medical oversight and transportation. She is here to request the city continue its support and continue to provide some funding and allow them to bill services for citizens who might need adult day services. They used \$3,465.00 during the last calendar year. They billed for 99 days of services. She has no idea how many clients from the city they have from year to year. Currently there are 11 Ravenna citizens involved in the program. None of them are using the funding from the city. She never knows from year to year how many people are going to not be Medicaid eligible or if she can't find them other funding. If they're citizens within the city limits of Ravenna, then they are qualified. She does feel that she and her staff are good stewards of any funding sources available to them. When a person comes to them and are referred to services, they try to find whatever funding they can to help them pay for adult day services. If they don't qualify for the Medicaid waiver, she looks to see if they are a wartime vet; can they be referred to the VA outpatient clinic, etc. If they're not qualified that way, they used to be able to help them through Jobs and Family services, through title 20. Unfortunately, that is no longer available to them. Over the years, the different types of support that have been available, even through the Area Agency on Aging there was a program called Care Coordination, have just dwindled. Older Americans Act money is just coming down to barely anything. People are either paying privately for services, depleting their assets that way to qualify for Medicaid or they are already Medicaid eligible.

Ms. Michael asked if the Coleman Foundation sets any money aside. They hold benefits, is any of that money applied to Adult Day Services.

Ms. Kairis said that the money raised at that particular fundraising event goes directly to their cost center; to their bottom line. She can tell her that the Brunch Bunch fundraiser, they received \$8,700.00 this year goes directly to their bottom line and actually helps them pay for food. The food program is one of the more costly components of the program, because of the size and the staffing needed. The foundation is there to raise money for all of Coleman Professional Services and they do benefit from some monies that are allocated or designated toward Adult Day Services. There is an adult day endowment from years ago when they were PASS and they sold the old building. Some of that money went into an endowment. Mr. Burbick has given them some money. They don't get to spend the money the money out of the core, they use the interest, which hasn't been that great lately, but they do see once a year they get to have some pot of money that gets transferred over from the foundation to their cost center. She can also tell them that the Coleman Adult Day Services runs in a deficit. If they weren't part of Coleman Professional Services, they would no longer exist. They merged with Coleman in 1998 and it wasn't because they weren't providing an excellent program. It was. It was a very, very sound program. They were paying the bills. But they wanted to plan for the future and plan for the growth of older population in Portage County. One of the nice thing that Coleman Professional Services promised was that they would build that building on Chestnut. They have lived up to every promise they made. They have this beautiful facility and over the years have served hundreds of people from all over the county.

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Ms. Michael asked how much is appropriated for this program.

Mr. Cecora responded \$10,000.00 is budgeted.

Ms. Michael said they only used \$3,500.00. Her question is, if that money could be split for other senior citizens. She thinks there are other senior citizens who are suffering in other areas. Everybody knows she is active with the senior center and if that were to go, she thinks it's a way for all of the different communities to look at other ways to help save and help the other seniors too. Should all of the money go to one place or maybe split up the money to other areas where the seniors' needs might not get met as well.

Mr. Ribelin said he thinks that void with the money has been met for this year. He knows in the newspaper, Ms. Michael said she thought the city should provide money to the senior center.

Ms. Michael said that if they are going to give to one senior place, they can look at other areas to help.

Mr. Ribelin said he thinks healthcare is much more important than the recreational activities, personally.

Ms. Michael responded that they are both important.

Mr. Ribelin said he thinks they are both important as well, but when he needed Coleman for his dad, they were there for him. He didn't know where to turn. He's never had a situation like that his whole life. He turned to Coleman and they got it done. He supports them wholeheartedly.

Mr. Ricciardi said Ms. Michael raised this issue last year right when they were voting on legislation. Now they are looking at authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract.

Ms. Michael said she questions the amount. Obviously, they don't use all of the \$10,000.00 but some years they may. She is just questioning can they just pick one way to help seniors in the community; are there other seniors in our community that may need help in other areas. She is not saying anything against Coleman by any means. She attends their benefits.

Ms. Kairis said that absolutely agrees with what Ms. Michael is saying. There are so many needs for seniors out there. A few years ago, there was a senior services levy on the ballot. She doesn't know what everyone's positions are but Portage County is one of the few counties in the State of Ohio that does not provide for its seniors through a senior services levy. Those levies help to pay for Mobile Meals as well as in-home healthcare, social work services and different types of services for seniors. The folks who have lived in this county and have paid taxes, many of them are now destitute. It's unfortunate that what is out there to assist them is limited.

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Ms. Michael said there are a number of people who literally cannot eat. They're at home and may not qualify for some of the meals programs. She is putting out there to the city. That is her only question. She has no problem in helping our seniors but what's good for one, she feels is good for all. That is all she is saying.

Mr. Berry asked if Ms. Kairis thinks their costs are going to be about the same for 2012.

Ms. Kairis said their costs for food has skyrocketed. They have the hot lunch vended through a Family & Community Services Program. Their Best Choice Senior Meals program. But their other food, the breakfast and snack they provide is brought in through Gordon Food Service. She has looked at Sisco and other places and their food costs continue to go up, up, up as well as their fuel delivery costs. They go to the food bank and try to get costs controlled. That is one of her primary functions is to control costs and expenses. They try to keep the fee for service as affordable as they can. They have not raised that price in many years. She doesn't want to do raise the rates this year and does not anticipate doing it.

Mr. Ricciardi said that the general fund is in the red and there is no money left over. It just didn't get used. How many Ravenna citizens did that 99 days service.

Ms. Kairis responded that she believes it was just a few people, one or two. In previous years, there has been as many as four at a time. There was a lapse when she wasn't at Coleman, there were several. It varies from year to year. She may have no one. They might be able to just fit them into the Medicaid program or over to the VA and help them find other funding sources. Sometimes she can't do that. If this is available to them, they offer it.

Mr. Ricciardi asked if they reach out to a fairly large number of the residents since not so many are using that service.

Ms. Kairis said that they do have a fairly large number of people but they are people, for the most part, who have lived here the majority of their adult lives.

Mr. Seman said from another aspect, he thinks it provides some relief. Some of these folks have family caretakers and this is the only way they get a break is when the folks are out there during the day. The type of folks using this facility have pretty serious problems. To be honest he is amazed. When they talk about this kind of care, \$10,000.00 is pocket change. Not for the city but it is when they talk medical care. That's not to belay the concerns Ms. Michael has for other aspects but they run into this with housing, housing repairs. They try to run folks through NDS but none of these add up to what the needs are. Honestly, a lot of seniors are having problems they don't even know about because they will not ask. They'll just make do. At this point in time, it would be nice if they didn't have to use any of it. But you never know. He's known people who have used the facility and has never heard any complaints. If they want to set up funds, there will probably be different organizations and a new group every day. They would get it down to the amount they donated would be insignificant and you couldn't do anything with it. He thinks if you go too low, then you can't help.

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Mr. Ribelin said we are living in an aging society and an aging community.

Ms. Engelhart said that when she is looking at the services and doesn't discount the services and the city has, for years, offered the support to those families and those residents are getting a quality service. Being a previous director of nursing, they worked with this agency. She does have a little bit of a concern with regards to taxpayer dollars that effect such a small portion of our population when they just talked about the health department and they really don't know what the needs of our seniors are in the community because they haven't had the ability to assess what their needs are. She is wondering if a portion of this funding could go toward helping them assess what those needs are for the senior population so they can do a better job of serving all of our seniors, not just the ones who access their facility.

Mr. Seman said they could take the money and join the organizations they talked about in the other committee and they have nothing to do with this. The funds are very limited.

Mrs. Swigart said she works in this field, Passport Waiver and there is more money given to Passport Waiver programs now under the new government in Ohio. There are more openings. They used to limit a certain amount of openings. They have increased the amount. They have also increased the amount you can make, your income. There are more coming through passport so there will be less people who need private funding.

Ms. Kairis said that it is still 150% poverty level. Those of them who are providers of passport services, have all had a 3% reduction in their reimbursements. Their passport reimbursement is one of the lowest. It's \$41.16 a day and these folks can come and they are provided with excellent care but they can get it for just over \$4.00 an hour, if they are on the Medicaid waiver. Their cost are higher than that. Since they are educating people on passport program, there is a cap now that the state has set for every passport consumer. It is \$1,085.00. The case managers do have a little bit of wiggle room if a person has very intense needs. But \$1,085.00 does not go very far when you're looking at services. They are one of the best values for Medicaid because they provide onsite bathing services. They have the nurses who are administering medications. They have the staff that are providing toileting and feeding people, assisting them with ambulating. They have therapy services down the hall. She is surprised they aren't busier than they are through the Medicaid program but many people choose to stay home. A lot of folks who do come to their program live with a caregiver. Generally, they are adult children who work and they need to go to work and need a safe place for mom or dad.

Mr. Ricciardi asked since Ms. Kairis has been operating in the program, what is the most, that she can recall, the city of Ravenna was required to contribute under the contract; has it ever been over \$10,000.00.

Ms. Kairis said she does not recall. It was split many years ago with minor home repairs.

Mr. Cecora said that one year it was up to \$12,000.00.

Mr. Ribelin said that there was \$10,000.00 budgeted and it went over and it is based on per patient and there are times that money may not be spent.

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Mr. Cecora said that it might have been around \$3,500.00 last year but he traced it back through 2010, 2009 and 2008. They did \$6,700.00 in 2010; over \$7,000.00 in 2009 and in 2008 it was \$8,500.00.

Mr. Ribelin said that if they don't spend what is budgeted is still here. It doesn't go to Coleman.

Mr. Ricciardi said that last year was apparently a down year.

Ms. Kairis said that it is really very hard to find funding especially if a person is Medicaid eligible, they are going to have them contact Area Agency on Aging and get them started on the passport program.

Ms. Michael said that she still has concerns but they can move it forward.

Mr. Ribelin said that since the money will be in the general fund, he thinks, if, at a later date, Ms. Michael has some kind of proposal, they can bring it forward.

Ms. Michael said she just wants to make sure the taxpayers' money. Legally, is that showing bias?

Mr. Seman said that is a weak argument. He doesn't buy that. They're not talking about millions of dollars.

Ms. Michael said that she is just saying that there are other seniors in the community who need help. She has a strong love for seniors. She enjoys them. She knows they have lived here their whole life. She is a representative to the community and is asking a question.

Ms. Kairis said she would highly encourage her to join their advocacy counseling because one of the things they have been talking about is trying to have some sort of a central office where seniors can call to find out who will tasks like, shovel their sidewalk.

Ms. Michael said that is true. She knows there are other programs in other communities. Kent has a program through another non-profit but when seniors need repairs; if they need a porch fixed or things they are not able to do, there is funding set aside that helps these seniors who may not have a family.

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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Mr. Ribelin said he received a communication from Mr. Finney via email.

Mr. Finney said that the garbage carrier can be put on hold to a later date.

Mr. Finney said the other issue he sent an email about was limiting the number of dogs. His office did some research and one of the things Ravenna does not have, under Section 618 in the Code is specifying how many animals are allowed to be housed on one parcel. His question is, before he goes through additional work and propose an ordinance, what their feelings are on this.

Mr. Berry asked if there isn't already a limit.

Mr. Finney said that it is under the Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 955.

Mr. Ribelin said that he thinks this came up previously and they tabled it at that time. Hopefully with warming weather approaching, this becomes a big issue again. There are some families in the community that are saddled up with a situation where there are real problems. He noted that Mr. Finney said that many towns have limits from two to five but at this time, he would like to limit it to five.

Mr. Finney said Rocky River has a total of two domestic animals. Streetsboro allows a total of five; Akron has a total of four; Kent has a total of four; Lakewood allows two; Stow permits four. Right now Portage County only licenses dogs. They don't license cats. Some towns do. There are a few places being visited on a regular basis. They are rental properties. They are fenced in yards. The houses are falling and in disrepair, which their kennels are also more than like in disrepair. The neighbors complain about the fecal matter. There are ordinances in place that specifies that these things need cleaned up.

Mr. Ribelin said that is a matter he pointed out several times.

Mr. Finney said he wants to put it in the City's code that specifies how many animals are permitted in the city of Ravenna. There is an ordinance that also specifies animal related businesses, 618.21 "no animal related business shall fail to conform to planning and zoning". What this says is they do not permit kenneling of animals in residential districts. The Ohio Revised Code says that a kennel is five or more dogs, which makes it a business. The definition of a kennel under ORC 955 states that.

Mr. Seman said that if you have a dog and you're raising puppies and she has six, you went from one dog to a kennel.

Mr. Finney said that if you are raising puppies, you are running a business.

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Mr. Ribelin said he would like to ask a hypothetical question; if they were to limit the number of dogs to three, those who had more than that, what would the process be. Are they going to take them out to the APL and incinerate them.

Mr. Ricciardi said people would have to pick between their pets to see which one they want.

Mr. Finney said whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor the first offense and a misdemeanor of the fourth degree for a second or subsequent offenses. The penalty is provided in Section 698.02.

Mr. Ricciardi said that there are some people who can keep four pets and do real well; keep the place clean; the pets are clean; they are well behaved and everybody is happy. There are other people who shouldn't have one pet.

Mr. Berry said his neighbor has five pugs. He walks them all at the same time. They are all very well behaved. He keeps them in the house and you don't see them in the yard. He's one of those individuals who really takes care of their pets. Under what Mr. Finney is proposing, he wouldn't be permitted to do that.

Mr. Finney said the reason they are having this discussion is not those people. It's the people who have 20 cats and an emaciated dog in their basement that they saw on Cleveland Road firsthand. Those are the bleeding heart liberals that say "I can't let that dog go to the pound, I'll take another one in". If they had a rule that says, no, you won't, then they would realize they can't do it. How many calls does his department get because the fecal matter; the odor. Then when they go to the backyard, they see four German shepherds and a pug and a cat running through. He has no way to make these people pickup their animal feces. He has no way to make them responsible.

Mr. Ribelin said he is just wondering, when they say that these people have to get rid of the animals, so they take it to the protective league, do they sell it?

Mr. Finney said he wouldn't expect Mr. Berry's neighbor to get rid of two of the pugs if three was the magic number. Those aren't the people they are targeting. They are targeting the people who are not responsible.

Ms. Michael asked how he would determine that. What if one of the neighbors gets mad and turns him in.

Mr. Finney said that's where the chronic nuisance would step in. The chronic nuisance would step in with dogs barking. So they will call the county and see how many animals are registered at this address. If there were only two and he sees five, there is a problem. They can continue the chronic nuisance. That's one avenue. It gives them a leg to stand on when they go to court for these people.

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Mayor Bica asked what the ordinances say about kennels.

Mr. Finney said, animal related businesses.

Mayor Bica said he would like to see some specificity around what a kennel is; how many dogs, what a kennel is, not a private residence but somebody who is harboring or kenneling dogs in the middle of the city such as on North Chestnut Street and such as on Diamond Street. There are two that he knows of.

Mr. Ricciardi said that is the key; is somebody actually operating a kennel as a business within the city as opposed to somebody with four or five dogs.

Mayor Bica said he is just wondering if there is a definition around that.

Mr. Ribelin said those two residents Mayor Bica is talking about are chronic nuisances and it's something they deal with all of the time.

Mr. Seman said this is a case where it isn't specified in the city ordinance, it goes to the state.

Mr. Ribelin noted that Mr. Finney is looking for legislation.

Mr. Finney responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Michael said she is wondering if it could be a definition of a kennel, if somebody were to say five pets, then they could be classified as a kennel because it is multiple pets. Therefore they would have stricter codes to reinforce that. She is really concerned about the good people that are taking care of their animals.

Mr. Berry said he always thought a kennel was a place where people could bring their pets and have them boarded for short periods of time.

Mayor Bica said there are some kennels that are taking in dogs and cats; they're rescue people. On Diamond Street they were taking in five, six, eight, ten dogs at a time and they were taking them for the Animal Protective League but they were creating chaos in that neighborhood.

Ms. Engelhart said that it sounds like they need something that specifies kennel or defines kennel.

Mr. Finney said that in Ohio Revised Code 955.02, a definition of a kennel owner: "A kennel owner is a person, partnership, firm, company, or corporation professionally engaged in the business of breeding dogs for hunting or for sale."

Ms. Engelhart noted that the Revised Code talks about breeding. They're talking about rescues that are kenneling.

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Mr. Ricciardi said Ms. Michael's question is, can they define a kennel as something that doesn't necessarily require to be operated for a business or monetary purpose.

Ms. Michael said that if they're going to have a rescue at their house where they are taking these multiple animals, the city should have its own legislation that give them a little more teeth to go after them in court.

Mr. Ricciardi said that it seems to him sometimes, for example, these people who rescue dogs from the APL. Somebody calls the APL and tells them this is a problem in the community and the city doesn't want them to place any more animals in that house because they're not caring properly for them and it's creating a problem with the neighbors, what do you think the APL would do? He thinks there is a pretty good chance they'd stop giving those folks dogs to rescue. That's what he thinks would happen.

Mr. Ribelin said if they could have a more specific recommendation to look at, it might help; about the number of animals, kennels, revision of existing ordinances currently in place.

Ms. Engelhart said then tie it into those violations that they have about animals, feces and barking dogs. They are things they already have ordinances for that they put into the nuisance ordinance. If they tie those in, if you have more than five dogs on your property, and you are in violation of these other things, when the city comes out, then it gives them more teeth to push it toward the chronic nuisance ordinance.

Mr. Ricciardi said that the problem is always enforcement. Not that they don't have something to cover the situation; they oftentimes do, but it is a matter of enforcement.

Mr. Ribelin asked if there have been any fines assessed on that chronic nuisance ordinance.

Ms. Engelhart said they are in the process of doing so right now. The law director has the letters to review that they will send out ahead of time.

Mayor Bica said they would be the establishment of the template.

Mr. Ribelin asked if that computer program is complete to have all departments communicate with each other.

Mayor Bica said they are so close. It's going to do a lot of stuff.

Mr. Finney said that a kennel, from a business standpoint is not allowed in any residential district without Planning and Zoning Commission approval. He thinks, it being his opinion, based on what he sees they need to establish a limit of animals. Again, it isn't those who are responsible; it's those who are not responsible. He also thinks it is not in the city's best interest to allow any animal shelter to be housed in a residential district, period. One way they can do this very simply is to specify how many animals are allowed to be housed in the code.

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Mr. Ricciardi asked if they want to ban shelters.

Mr. Finney responded that absolutely, in a residential district.

Mr. Ricciardi said then they will need a definition of what a shelter is as well, he would guess.

Mayor Bica asked if it wouldn't be reasonable to say that if you're going to have a shelter, you need one acre or more or two acres of property. There are places in town that have that type of property and it would be ample enough for a buffer.

Mr. Seman said there is a way around it and that is by going to Planning Commission.

Mr. Finney said there is a kennel on Spruce Street. They have kennels lined up in their driveway. It is a registered kennel through the dog warden. He has given them a permit. He's been there and inspected the properties. These are very large dogs that this person is breeding. It's an issue. He's got a letter and he's going to send it out. This issue has just recently been brought to his attention.

Mr. Seman said that he thinks if they want to do that kind work, you should live out in the country.

Ms. Michael said it's frustrating to council members when they get these calls and they feel bad for the neighbors. She knows how she would feel if she had to live next to that house on Diamond Street. It is disgusting.

Mr. Ricciardi said they are back at the situation like the parking ban where there will be a lot of issues. How do they apply this to someone who is responsible, like the neighbor with five pugs. It's like the parking ban.

Mr. Ribelin said they will have to come up with some kind of language that would fit in and will probably require a public hearing.

Ms. Engelhart asked if they would move this to Finance Committee and Mr. Finney will work with the law director and get some language to bring back at next month's meeting.

Mr. Ribelin said he would like to give an update on a PAFERS request. He was asked that the city pass a resolution allowing PAFERS to apply for a grant with the Ohio Department of Development. They were going to apply for this grant in order to hire a supervising chief for all PAFERS communities. It was going to be a grant that they estimated would be for \$100,000.00. They are initially told, however, Ms. Engelhart went to another meeting. Ultimately if they are going to apply for the grant and/or loan, they need to pass a resolution to do that. At this time, they don't need a resolution. There was only six weeks to apply for the grant. There were a lot of information needed as to how it would save money. It even said something about a performance audit. The performance audit is around \$80.00 an hour. They're not applying for this grant until next year, if they do it. They are gathering information and will come back to the table and decide what they are going to do.

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Ms. Engelhart said this is the same grant Ms. Macomber was talking about in the previous meeting. The emphasis of this whole grant is to try to bring communities together about regionalism. It's about either consolidation, mergers or collaborative ways to save money. The State of Ohio is really out there trying to promote this. This is money that was taken from the local government funds that the municipalities and townships were reduced that they have turned back around and are making available to incentivize to work collectively and collaboratively together to try to save money. It's all about efficiency. The biggest thing they are trying to promote is that you need to show that you can have a 30-75% cost savings projected over three years by the collaborative project. The scoring being used is based on 100%; 25% of those are depending on how much of a cost savings they can illustrate. The higher you can illustrate a cost savings, you'll get all 25 points. If you can only illustrate a 30% cost savings, you only get five points out of those 25. In this project, in looking at an administrative chief, even though they know it's necessary to try to move some of those administrative things forward, asking for \$60,000.00 for an additional amount of money to try to bring people together. They can purchase collaboratively now and don't need another layer of administration. When they met last week, there really isn't enough political will right now in this PAFERS group to move this forward. If they ask for \$100,000.00 that would fund somebody's salary for a year; what happens in year two when the money is gone. The communities that are not willing to provide a certain percentage of support for this administrative chief's position now are probably not going to be able to in a year from now. Where is that going to gain them in a year from now. That is why the task force decided not proceed.

Mr. Ribelin said that Kent came forward with the possibility of applying for the grant. Bill Lillich sent out a letter. Chief Williams has been very instrumental in the whole process. He would like to have better news to report because there is a lot of money invested in this. There are six years of time and commitment invested. He would like to see the merger with the township move forward.

Mr. Cecora said that in the process of doing the billing for the annual dispatch services, an inconsistency in the Ravenna Township contract was noticed vs. the other entities that are subscribers. When they did a review, they noticed everybody else was on the same page. He had a feeling the township may have been entered into prior to the others. The terms and conditions in the actual contract as well as the rates were different. He called the township clerk. They discussed the issue and they would like to get them in the same contract cycle as the others. These were done in late 2010. The rate was to exist from the back end of 2010 and into 2011 and then an increase in 2012 and another in 2013. Somehow the township has 2010 as an independent year, 2011 and 2012 without 2013. There is a 5% incremental increase in 2012 and 2013. They were billed at the correct rate in 2010. A new agreement is needed. The township trustees have agreed to it.

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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 for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Bruce Ribelin, Chairman
Public Health and Safety Committee