

**MINUTES OF RAVENNA CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 13, 2012**

The Meeting of the Ravenna City Planning Committee was called to order by Chairman, Scott Rainone at 7:30 P.M. Present were: Amy Michael, Sharon Spencer, Fred Berry, Jack Ferguson, Bruce Ribelin and Fran Ricciardi. Also in attendance was Mayor Joe Bica; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Parks and Recreation Supervisor, Elaine Van Hoose and Water Plant Supervisor, Tim Stephens. Also in attendance were Donna Swigart of 528 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio and Marc Resnik of 1102 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio.

Mr. Rainone said the first item on the agenda is the Area Agency on Aging.

Ms. Van Hoose said this is the request for proposal for the fiscal years 2013 and 2014. It comes out every two years. It had to be in on February 10. She got it late and put it together.

Mr. Rainone asked if this is for the annual request for support.

Ms. Van Hoose responded in the affirmative stating that it is about \$1,500.00. That goes toward senior parties, senior coffee. The bulk of it goes to buying supplies for parties, gifts, door prizes.

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

Mr. Rainone said the next item are independent contractor agreements.

Ms. Van Hoose said these are contracts that did not get on the previous month. They are for umpires for the softball leagues; girls fast pitch as well as adult softball leagues. They utilize UMPS if they cannot supply their own. Windmill Lakes Golf Club is where they have the adult golf clinic and the junior clinic. The UMPS hasn't changed and she thinks it may have gone up slightly for the golf. The price is \$100.00; they get \$90.00 and the city gets \$10.00. The participants pay the golf course and then the golf course will pay the city. The city's share has not been reduced but she thinks the overall cost has been increased.

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. Van Hoose said she just got the information this morning that they have been awarded the National Garden Association Healthy Sprouts of \$500.00. They talked about it previously but it was missed for Finance Committee a few months back.

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. Rainone said the next item for discussion is the donation to non-profit organizations. What he has found is surprising to him is that there are several communities that do this. One he thought was interesting was that Bloomington, Indiana sets aside \$50,000.00 a year but the qualification is that there has to be a dollar for dollar match. In Columbia, they do it every two years. That is their funding cycle. They are broken down the way Kent is. Theirs are economic opportunity, mental health, independent living, emergency services, children youth and services. Small Town, Washington does it very similar. What he was concerned about was how to fund them; how they operate it. His concern is that it is asking the city to set aside new money.

Ms. Michael said she was told how Kent does it is they actually use it as a budget item. She does not recall the exact amount but Ravenna already appropriates \$10,000.00 every year and it's not all being used.

Mr. Rainone said he thinks that is a little different. He thinks that is a little more like the city is subsidizing a service rather than giving a grant to a non-profit.

Ms. Michael said that the services, for instance, as provided by Kent, the application is reviewed by their economic development department and then it is narrowed down. Their council will choose three or two of those; it's really up to their discretion. But each one of those has to meet a criteria of social services, helping the community in one form or another. One of the big things right now that she thinks is important is the United Way; the 211 program. She spoke with Steve Keebler this last week and it's about 83% of people who use it are from Ravenna. She thinks there are ways of looking at the needs of the community and she thinks it's important that if they choose to help one group, they should broaden it to everyone to be fair.

Mr. Rainone said he thinks she is right but if you take, for example, that \$10,000.00 they sent to Coleman and set it aside, so they only have \$10,000.00 to help a non-profit which doesn't really go very far other than they'd have to pick maybe one a year.

Ms. Michael said she understands it varies from year to year but last year they only used \$3,500.00. It depends.

Mr. Rainone said that if they are going to keep it to \$10,000.00 that's one thing. If they're going to expand it, that's more general fund money they don't have.

Ms. Michael said she doesn't think they would expand it. She would think they would use the same amount that they have. She thinks they should look at other options out there; not just one. She believes they have been doing this since the 1990s. They have given and given and given and she thinks it is a great thing but she is looking at representing all of the community, not just one.

Mr. Rainone said not to get him wrong. He is not criticizing her. So if they take the \$10,000.00 set aside, now they have just created a whole administrative process that someone has to enact and making more work. He asked if Ms. Michael feels comfortable at putting it at the feet of the economic development director.

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Ms. Michael said she didn't know. Mr. Seman gave a good idea at a previous meeting about the health department. Once the new health board gets established, they might have a vital role in knowing some of the needs and maybe have some input on where that money could be served. She thinks that if council is spending this money, they should have better knowledge of areas that could help the citizens or not do it at all.

Mr. Ricciardi said he would think the economic development director would have some contact with a number of different agencies.

Mayor Bica said she is involved with almost all of the non-profit agencies within the city.

Mr. Ricciardi said that in terms of funneling any applications through that department, it makes sense. He understands what Ms. Michael is saying. He knows that with some of the others, Coleman is near and dear to their hearts because of their utilization of them. He doesn't think they want to spend more than that \$10,000.00.

Ms. Michael said she wouldn't want to go any higher than that.

Mayor Bica said he would take that \$10,000.00 and push it into the city's own activities within such as the health department; the city's own senior citizen promotions, something they have direct control over internally vs. an external rather than going through this process, although this is a very good process in vetting out eligible projects, he thinks it might potentially get out of hand once people know that they have \$10,000.00 they are taking applications for. He agrees that the health department, probably in 2012 is going to be looking for additional funding to do more proactive health related programs. They aren't doing anything right now and \$10,000.00 might go a long way for senior care from a blood pressure screening, drugs, diabetics; it could go into some school programs. It's just a suggestion. He doesn't know if that's the answer.

Ms. Michael said that she thinks they should talk about and they don't have to forward it today. They can always talk about it at other meetings as they get more information.

Mr. Ricciardi said that if they go through a process such as this where there are multiple applicants, they can decide whether or not to divide that money up or rotate who gets it, etc. It doesn't have to be one or two groups, every other year, etc.

Mr. Rainone said that his concern is that Ms. Macomber's time should be spent on business recruitment and retention.

Ms. Michael said she thinks Ms. Macomber has a lot of knowledge because of her involvement with the non-profits, too. Maybe if they could include her somehow with the decision making, she would have a good idea as to what is going on out there. She knows she is busy but she also has a lot of knowledge from going around, networking and being on the boards.

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Mr. Rainone said that this is a quasi funding stream that just through practice has been set up for many years. By changing the rules of the game, do they impact residents who are using the service already.

Mr. Ricciardi said that when he asked Ms. Kairis how many people from the city of Ravenna they serviced last year, she thought it was very low, like two but as Mr. Ribelin pointed out, when you need it, you need it. His family has utilized that service, too. But it's just a matter of reaching more people maybe by rotating that funding or dividing it up. He thinks that is a good point Ms. Michael makes. He thinks that it is also a good point the mayor makes that they may be able to reach more people through the health department ultimately.

Mr. Rainone said he would guess the first decision they have to make is if they keep the \$10,000.00 as a social service line item. Then they can decide whether it will be a city function or non-profit.

Mr. Ricciardi said he thinks they need to talk about that more because he thinks the mayor made the point that the health department's budget might be able to better utilize those funds.

Mayor Bica said he thinks they might even see the end of this year being in a better position to utilize some of those funds; as the board gets more and more into trying to determine what programs should be offered and where those services should be offered. Of course, the struggle is going to be, where does the funding come from to do that.

Mr. Rainone said that the funding for this year has already been committed. Would this be a better discussion to table until the fall?

Mayor Bica said it would be but he would encourage them to warn Coleman that the funding may not be coming next year.

Mr. Ricciardi said maybe someone should talk to Ms. Macomber since they are having discussions around her.

Ms. Michael said that she thinks it is important to keep it in the forefront and rolling on the agenda. Maybe they will have some new ideas. If they are going to spend the taxpayers' money, they need to do it fairly.

It was decided by those present to leave the item on the agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Rainone said the next item for discussion is the Volunteer Park maintenance.

Mr. Berry said they talked about the maintenance of the road for the Hot Stove league. Being that Hot Stove has started practicing, it needs to be looked at.

Mr. Ricciardi noted there wasn't anything done for them last year.

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Mr. Finney said two years ago a bulldozer was brought in and the street department graded a few areas that were holding water. Then they rolled it to help the drain the areas. Last year there they didn't have the grindings as they had previously. He doesn't know what to expect this year because he hasn't been given a budget yet.

Mr. Berry said the question was, how far do they want to look at this. Do they want to look at a permanent solution so they don't have to bring this up every year.

Mr. Finney said a permanent solution by way of an agreement or by paving.

Mr. Berry said that it would be by agreement so that they are on the same page and they don't have to keep bringing it up every year.

Mr. Finney said the city owns the portion off of Diamond Street back a certain distance and then where the road jogs, that is where the line is unclear. They looked for property pins last summer. He was able to find one in the woods. They put a tape measure over it and put their thumb up because he can't detect any of the pins in the road. A surveyor was hired to set the pins in the mid-80's. There has been a lot of work done out there since so the pins are missing. It's difficult for him to tell them that ten feet belongs to the city; ten feet is Hot Stove. He can't tell them that.

Mr. Rainone said that the problem is there is a perceived service that's been supplied for several years. Any time people think they have something and then you take it away, that's where you have trouble.

Mr. Ricciardi said he has mentioned before that part of what they have to think about is the cost benefit to this community in terms of the young people, giving them something to do. The folks involved in Hot Stove have done a lot of fundraising and put a whole lot of man hours into creating those fields and maintaining them. He doesn't know what the expense would be to do something to help. If it's fairly minimal, \$2,500.00 or \$3,000.00, he thinks they ought to look at doing it.

Mr. Berry said last year the amount that was tossed out was \$3,000.00.

Ms. Spencer said that the number of out of towners who come for tournaments, it is a reflection on the city to make sure things look as nice as they can.

Mr. Rainone asked how much it would cost to asphalt the road from diamond to the barn.

Mr. Finney said he would guess it to be around \$130,000.00.

Mr. Rainone asked how much it would cost to do chip and seal.

Mr. Finney responded that he's not sure, maybe \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00. But a chip seal is a three to four year surface. They might get 20-25 years out of asphalt if it is maintained.

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Mr. Rainone asked what would be entailed in maintaining the asphalt.

Mr. Finney responded that every five years they would need to sealcoat it. To sealcoat, they are looking at probably 20 cents a square foot. You could probably save \$7,000.00 to \$8,000.00.

Mr. Berry asked if Mr. Stacy didn't mention that was something the Hot Stove organization would absorb the cost of keeping it sealed.

Mr. Ricciardi said he thinks they need to approach the Hot Stove people to see what they could live with. If it's just throwing some gravel into the low spots so that their cars don't disappear or lose their exhaust systems. That's one thing. He doesn't think they are asking for the Cadillac here.

Mr. Rainone said that the options are that they spend nothing. They spend \$3,000.00 to clean it up annually and then the ballpark figures of \$55,000.00 with the hope that it lasts for 20 years and they take care of it, being half of the road.

Mr. Finney said that over the years, they purchased some equipment they didn't have in the past. They have a front end loader now. So they do have capabilities of spreading grindings. He doesn't see why the city couldn't deliver some grindings to them, if they have them. Currently there is a pile of grindings they will use eventually. Maybe that is something they could do is take 20 tons to them and almost spread them out in the holes and they could potentially use their own equipment to smooth them around where they need to be.

Mr. Ricciardi said that's what he is talking about; what level can they go to help them without going too far into the city's pockets and yet still provide a service to an organization that provides a big service to the community.

Mr. Rainone asked if the city buys gravel.

Mr. Finney said they buy it only when they need it. They do not stock it. It costs anywhere from \$11.00 to \$13.00 a ton, depending on what they are buying.

Mr. Rainone asked how many tons of gravel or grindings would be needed to fill in the holes.

Mayor Bica said the grindings are free.

Mr. Finney said that he would think two truckloads, they have a ten ton dump so twenty tons would go a good distance.

Mr. Rainone asked if there is any cost benefit as to longevity for grindings vs. gravel.

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Mr. Finney responded that if the sun can hit the grindings, it will get harder where gravel won't set up like asphalt. There are layers and layers of grindings out there now.

Mr. Rainone asked if there is another cheap material they can get two to three years out of.

Mr. Finney responded in the negative.

Mayor Bica said the issue with that road is that it needs to be completely redone because the water does not swale off of it at all. They need some serious changes to make it correct and last longer.

Mr. Rainone said he is trying to weigh all of the options.

Mr. Berry asked if it would be worthwhile to bring Mr. Stacy in and talk with him further.

Mr. Ricciardi responded in the affirmative stating they need to at least talk to him, at least informally. He doesn't think they need to bring him into a meeting.

It was decided by those present that Mr. Berry would call Mr. Stacy for a discussion of the issue at hand.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

**ATTEST:**

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Clerk of Council

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Scott Rainone, Chairman  
Planning Committee