

**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**July 8, 2025 @ 7:00 PM**

Steve Thorn called the meeting to order at 7:23 P.M.

**Roll Call:** Steve Thorn (chair), Kevin Maloney (clerk), Ellie Stamm, Wes Hawkins, Mayor Tammy Meyer

**Others Present:** Solicitor Bill Mason, Denise DiLellio, Randy Ellis, Jan Thorn, Mary Landy, Julie Robine

- ❖ Minutes from June 10th, 2025, were presented, and Tammy made motion to approve, Ellie seconded, all voted in favor.

**Old Business:**

- **DORA**

Randy presented Chamber's proposal for Dora application. Stated that the language may need to be cleaned up, copied some of it from Ravenna's application. Open questions were basic rules and boundaries. Discussed proposed outline of DORA zone. Steve asked if DORA boundary had to be on a property boundary. Randy stated that the State wants the addresses listed that would be part of the DORA. Ellie asked if the zone would include 1st street also. Randy stated it would include the parking lot area on 1st street. Discussed basic rules in the proposal. Stated that the businesses are still responsible for checking age, making sure they're not serving people who are already drunk. Discussed days & times in proposal. Stated that Village Council would retain the right to make changes, or eliminate the DORA. Discussed feedback from other communities that have established DORAs, and all was positive. Mary asked for clarification on what "DORA" stood for, and what the limitations were - Could people bring their own alcohol? Randy confirmed that that was not permitted. Discussed history of the establishment of DORAs in Ohio - Went back to COVID period. Mary expressed concerns over having drunken people around children and families who are in the DORA area. Asked who would maintain order - Would this add a burden to the Police Dept? Tammy pointed out that we cannot mandate the Fire Dept. be part of our safety plan, since the Village doesn't have jurisdiction over the Fire Dept. Discussed possible changes in wording to clarify that the Village will not be mandating Fire Dept. responsibilities. Tammy reminded Mary that the Village had the right to modify or revoke the DORA if it was detrimental to the community. Ellie stated that the purpose was to help support the local businesses participating in the DORA. Mary asked who would enforce people not bringing their own alcohol. Jan wanted to know how this going to impact or benefit the Village? Would the Village get more tax revenue? Would additional trash be a burden on the Village? Randy stated that the businesses would be partially responsible, with their own trash cans for the DORA. Jan asked if there was any data on the financial benefits of a DORA. Steve & Tammy both stated there really wasn't any data available. Randy stated that the businesses would likely be able to determine the impact on their own establishments. Tammy told Jan that she didn't think it would be a financial windfall for the Village, but it would be beneficial to the local businesses. Randy noted that it mike generate opportunities for new businesses, or growth of existing businesses. Jan mentioned concerns with pedestrian traffic at Prospect & Rte. 44. Tammy agreed that the intersection was a major concern, and has brought up those concerns to County and State officials. Steve stated he was worried about that intersection as well, and didn't want the DORA boundary extended across Rte. 44.

- ❖ Tammy made a motion to excuse Kevin, Wes seconded. All in favor.

Steve mentioned he had concerns regarding parking. Does it make sense to move forward without a plan to address parking? Randy pointed out we could wait for things to be addressed first, or we could move forward, to motivate those changes to happen. Tammy asked if we could cut out the area on the west side of 44 as part of the DORA, to address the concerns over pedestrian traffic. Discussion about painting a crosswalk on Rte. 44. Tammy pointed out that the State has jurisdiction over the route, and ODOT would have to make any such changes. Steve pointed out that the green space was private property, so where would people "hang out"? Randy mentioned the new sidewalk on Main St., and the possibility of having tables and chairs in that area, as well as in front of Jakes, or the Granary. Denise asked about the Butcher business, and whether they would allow people to bring in drinks and use their indoor seating. Randy pointed out that it is up to each retailer to determine if they would allow DORA drinks in their business. Steve asked Randy about what he's observed regarding public opinion on the DORA. Randy stated that while some concerns have been brought up, the response has been mostly positive. Discussion regarding combination of special events with the DORA. Steve asked if the Chamber has done a survey of the residents on the issue. Randy confirmed that no survey has gone out, but again, he's received mostly positive comments from people he's spoken to. Steve expressed concerns about not getting broader public engagement, prior to readings & hearings of the legislation at Council. Tammy pointed out the difficulty in mailing a survey, given the nature of how the post office handles the Village residents with PO boxes. She also pointed out that we would have 3 readings of the legislation and public hearings. Randy discussed costs to implement the DORA, including signs, stickers, and trash cans; would not be the responsibility of the Village, but would be paid for by the Chamber & the business owners. Wes asked about locations of trash cans for the DORA. Randy explained what the plan was for locations. Denise pointed out that the area behind the green space should probably have a trash can as well. Tammy stated that she will need to go over the proposal with Bill Mason, and re-write it per our discussion. Tammy stated that it would likely go before Council in August, with a second reading in September, and a third reading and public hearing in October, with the legislation becoming effective in November.

- Comprehensive Growth Plan

Steve discussed establishing the Steering Committee. He noted that Ian Jones, Jaime Nosse, and Ted Bixler were possibly interested. He also reached out to the Lions, School Board, & Chamber for additional recommendations for members. He's hoping we have a group selected to present at the next meeting. Discussed hours Regional Planning will charge the Village, and that it will be spread over 3 years. Wes stated that he felt that it's \$40K that's not well-spent.

### **New Business:**

- No new Business

❖ Steve moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM; Tammy seconded; all voted in favor.

Please note: An audio recording of this meeting is available via public record request.