

Village of Bellaire
Downtown Development Authority

Louise Wenzel, Chairperson
Don Hoyt, Secretary
Dave Gajda, Treasurer

Downtown Development Authority Minutes
Tuesday April 27, 2021

- I. Call to Order:** Chairperson Wenzel called the meeting to order at 9 am.
- II. Attendance:**
Members Present: Dan Bennet, Dave Gajda, Tracy Lareau, Doreen McGuire, Don Semen, Joe Short, Louise Wenzel, Don Hoyt, Mark Irwin
Members Absent: Don Semen
Public Present: None.
- III. Approval of Consent Agenda:** Lareau motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Bennett, motion approved by unanimous vote.
- Agenda: No additions.
 - Financial Report: Gajda provided a report reviewing the balance sheet, cash flow, bank statement, and budget vs. actual.
 - DDA Minutes Approval – March 31, 2021: No changes to the minutes.
- IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items:** (none provided)
- V. Unfinished Business:**
- Village Update: Bennett provided an update. The Village has begun the process to hire a third police officer. Bennett indicated the overall increase in activity by local law enforcement is what prompted the hiring of the third officer. They also approved the building of a public restroom between Shorts and Ruthie’s, budgeted at \$150,000. Bennett indicated funds were available in the Village general fund after the auditors expressed concern over a large surplus in the general fund. The decision to build the restrooms was prompted by the Village believing this was a high priority of the public and understanding they have the funds to proceed with the project. Short, Wenzel and Irwin expressed concerns about how and why the Village made such a decision without working through the Unified Action Plan Steering Committee. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Village decision and actions associated with progressing with the building of public restrooms.
 - Unified Action Plan Steering Committee Update: An update was provided by Irwin. Committee did not meet last month and is meeting tonight. The committee has created a list of priority projects to complete, with Richardi Park

improvements listed first, Public Wi-Fi listed second and public restrooms, third. The plan is to develop a draft plan/roadmap for Richardi park development, public Wi-Fi and restrooms. They will be looking for a resolution of support in May for these plans, sharing them with other community members and presenting them to the Village Council.

- Business/Property Owner Parking – Letter/Map: Wenzel provided an update that the map has been shared with the public. Concerns were raised about enforcement of the downtown 4 hour parking rule. Drollinger was contacted concerning enforcement.
- DDA Boundary Expansion: Gajda shared his findings, which included a written summary along with an excel file of parcels in the area, looking for parcels with declining value. Next step would be showing potential maps of expanded boundaries, discussing with the NLEA to gather info for potential options. NLEA would provide this service for a fee, depending on what services we would want included. At least 50% of acreage would have to be commercial. If it's a higher level of residential, residents would be given a voice at the table concerning DDA decisions. Irwin motioned that Gajda contact the NLEA to receive bids on creating map possibilities to expand DDA boundaries. Gajda seconded the motion. Motion was carried by unanimous vote. Once information is gathered, the DDA would take the idea of DDA Boundary expansion to the Village for consideration.
- Wayfinding Signage: Hoyt provided an update. McGuire has been working with local companies that provide signage, and is still researching options. More to follow.
- DDA News Posting: Wenzel provided an update. Newsletter info regarding the DDA was compiled by McGuire was provided to Destination Bellaire for their weekly newsletter. Any items of interest related to the DDA should be forwarded to McGuire.
- Buy Local Update: No member present to provide an update.

VI. New Business: None

VII. Miscellaneous Business of the Authority Board: None.

VIII. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: None.

IX. Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned by Louise Wenzel at 10:05 am.

Meeting minutes compiled by Don Hoyt