

Village of Bellaire

MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

Dan Bennett, Georgia Jean Burns, Tani Carl, Butch Dewey, William Drollinger, Fred Harris, Brad Kik, Don Seman and Margie-Thomas Boyd

Master Plan Committee Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2018

5:30 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call Attendance:** Committee members introduced themselves.
Present: Tani Carl, Butch Dewey, Bill Drollinger, Brad Kik, Don Seman and Margie Thomas-Boyd
Absent: Dan Bennett, Georgia Jean Burns and Fred Harris and Don Seman
Staff Present: Lori Lockett, Zoning Administrator
Also Present: John Sych, Networks Northwest, Patti Savant, Rachel Krino, Joanna Thornton, Joe Short, and Jim Emery
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the September 12, 2018 were corrected to reflect a meeting and call to order time of 5:30 p.m. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Motion by Butch Dewey, seconded by Don Seman, to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2018 meeting as corrected.

- 4. Unfinished Business:** John Sych and members of the public introduced themselves. Mr. Sych explained the master plan process and survey. He noted that focus groups were put together to supplement the survey. Last month the Intergovernmental Coordination and Natural Areas focus groups met with the committee. This month the focus groups include Economic Development and Youth Interests.

a) Master Plan Focus Group-Economic Development: Mr. Sych opened discussion by identifying three questions as starting points. What do you believe are the village of Bellaire's strengths related to economic development? What do you believe are the challenges facing the Village related to economic development? What are your recommendations for the Village going forward regarding economic development? Economic development can mean job creation, quality of life, place-making, new business, business expansion - all relate back to the vitality of the community going forward.

Positives related to economic development in the Village were identified:

Short's – has been a springboard for a lot of activities and events;

Bellaire is different than it was 15 years ago;

Four season recreation opportunities and recognition of Bellaire as a destination not just one location;

Shanty Creek is now sharing and taking guests off the mountain;

Proximity to outdoor sporting activities, Grass River, Glacial Hills;

Bellaire is a hub with its proximity to Petoskey, Charlevoix, Gaylord, and Traverse City;

Proximity to water, Bellaire is the nexus of the Chain of Lakes;

Low crime;

Affordable housing;

Business owners working together to promote one another and a sense of community;

Farmer's market that shares the same sense of community;

The community takes care of its citizens;

Schools are strong with after school programs for students;
Having an airport;
Movie theater that offers current movies at an affordable price;
Public library that offers activities;
Golf courses and skiing;
The Bellaire Historical Museum - 900 people passed through this past season from 40 states and 5 countries;
Conferences at Shanty Creek Resorts
Short's and the Shanty Creek shuttle have brought tourists into downtown Bellaire;
Ball fields;
Lodging options and local amenities including a grocery store;
Large employers including Antrim County, Anchor – Danley
Retail businesses;
Marinas;
Walkability

Challenges and Opportunities were identified:

Working with the NLEA to strengthen the relationship to attract new businesses and/or expand existing;
Housing needed in an affordable price range;
Lack of rental housing;
Relocation of various businesses to optimize limited space in the downtown;
Public transportation;
Food trucks in the Village;
Being a work and play community that offers higher wages;
Aging infrastructure;
Adding non-motorized pathway connecting to Glacial Hills;
Labor shortage;
Lack of infrastructure at the Bellaire Industrial Park;
Lack of parking and access to public restrooms;
Improve the Village parks
Encouraging investment from those who share the community's vision

Mr. Sych thanked the public for their time. Focus group members will be updated as the process continues so they may provide further input.

b) Master Plan Focus Group-Youth Interests: Mr. Sych provided a brief orientation and explanation of the process to Mr. Emery, Superintendent of the Bellaire Public Schools. Questions identified for this group included: What do you believe are the Village of Bellaire's strengths related to youth interests? What do you believe are the challenges facing the Village related to youth interests? What are your recommendations for the Village going forward regarding youth?

In response to the invitation to attend the meeting, Mr. Emery had provided an email outlining the evolution of youth activities and suggesting that to be productive, the discussion required input from the youth. Mr. Emery recounted efforts on the part of Antrim Youth Advisory Council (AYAC) and the Bellaire Youth Initiative (BYI) in organizing dances and activities for local youth. He noted the challenges of a small school with changing state requirements for all students regardless of abilities. According to Mr. Emery, adults plan the activities; today's youth are not allowed or do not do things as in the past. Today's youth spend more time on their telephones. Open discussion ensued.

Challenges and Recommendations were identified:

- Scheduling of activities between the first of the year and April;
- Affordable day care and after school care;
- Transportation for after school activities at a reasonable price;
- Opportunities for family activities including development of a skate park;
- A location for youth to hang out and to do “techie things” together;
- Public safety affording outdoor activities;
- Instructional time in a safe spot;
- Development of an Antrim County Center for Recreation offering internal programs in a variety of adventure sports and artistic endeavors;
- Repurposing of the Community Hall-discussion of its past, present and possible future.

c) Paddle Antrim (from Master Plan Focus Group-Natural Areas): Deana Jerdee, Executive Director of Paddle Antrim, was unable to attend the Natural Areas Focus Group discussion in September. Consequently, she was invited to attend the October meeting. Mr. Sych explained the purpose of the committee and the process undertaken. Ms. Jerdee stated that Paddle Antrim is a local non-profit working to protect the waterways by connecting people through paddling. The mission is about stewardship and improving accessibility. The area has tremendous natural resources. Paddle Antrim focuses on paddle sports providing education on stewardship and public safety. Paddle Antrim works collaboratively with other groups developing the water trail. The Village has been very cooperative. Bellaire is a critical spot because it connects the upper and the lower chain of lakes. Bellaire is a hub. This past year, Paddle Antrim began offering safety classes for youth and other paddlers. Ms. Jerdee hopes that the water trail finds its place in the master plan. Challenges include development and funding of local signage. Bellaire is leading the way in developing a universal access; they are trying to work with the villages so that people with disabilities and special needs will be able to go from one place to another. Ms Jerdee thanked the committee.

Mr. Sych said that the master plan survey report would be reviewed at next month’s meeting. He requested that members begin thinking about their vision for the community. The information he has gathered will be used to help formulate goals and objectives.

- 5. New Business:** None presented.
- 6. Correspondence/Reports:** None presented.
- 7. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes compiled by:
Lori Luckett, Zoning Administrator & Recording Secretary

Approved: _____

Date: _____