

Village of Bellaire
Downtown Development Authority
Minutes
Wednesday, March 30, 2022

I. Call to Order:

Chair D. Hoyt called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

III. Attendance:

Members Present: Dan Bennett, Michelle Dayton, Dave Gajda, Don Hoyt, Tracy Lareau, Doreen McGuire

Members Absent: Cindi Place, Don Seman, Taylor Sutherland

IV. Consent Agenda:

Motion by T. Lareau to approve the consent agenda. Second, D.Gajda.
Motion approved by unanimous vote.

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items:

None

VI. Unfinished Business:

Buy Local Update

The *Art is Sweet* event was very successful. The monies generated from the event will allow the Buy Local Group to advertise their next event, *FlipFlops and Flamingos* which will take place on Saturday, April 23rd. The Memorial Day Parade will take place this year. Entry forms to follow.

Village Update

The Village Council approved the DDA budget minus two line items, Professional Services and Public Wireless Technology Program. Discussion followed with N. Essad explaining in greater detail why the Council voted to exclude the above mentioned line items.

A monetary request was made by the Village to the DDA to support the construction of the downtown restrooms. The construction project is currently over budget. There is \$10K from the Rotary Charities Grant that was awarded to the Unified Action Plan Committee. The grant was specified to support public WiFi, public restrooms or Richardi Park. (Richardi Park is not in the DDA boundary). WiFi is currently being reviewed by C. Place and D. Hoyt of the DDA. Discussion followed with N. Essad stating that the grant monies from the Rotary Charities Grant can be used to support any Village project.

Motion by D. Gajda to amend the budget by \$10k and to be bappropriated to the Village for the new downtown restrooms. Second, D. Bennett. Discussion followed. Based on the outcome of the discussion it was determined not to move forward with the motion. Motion by D. Gajda to amend the motion and to table the motion until the next meeting. Second D. Bennett. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

The update also mentioned that there is a possibility of a donor to support the ballfields at Craven Park. In addition there is the possibilities of monies from Kearney Township to also support the ballfields.

Public Wifi

D. Hoyt gave the update on behalf of C.Place regarding WiFi downtown. We are waiting on a quote from Affinity TC which we should have before the April meeting. Still waiting on cost information from Aspen Wireless and Merit. The quote will be provided at the April meeting at which time discussion will take place on whether to pursue public WiFi or appropriate the Rotary Charities Grant to support another project.

Map

D. McGuire presented the board with a final draft of the downtown map. One minor change was suggested which will be made. Motion by T. Lareau to approve the amended map and present to the Village Council on Wednesday, April 6, 2022. Second, D. Hoyt. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

DDA Parking Committee

Motion by T. Lareau to approach the Village Council to place parking directional signage at the new restrooms and behind Ruthies (alleyway) to the parking lot behind Inspire Health/Bellaire Bar. Second, D. Gajda. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Salting Sidewalks

Survey results were reviewed from the local businesses. The majority of the businesses would be interested in support of salting of the sidewalks. After discussion there are questions that will need to be addressed: Will the Village provide the salting service? Instead of salt, cost of using ice melt? Who would pay for the salt/ice melt? D. Hoyt will discuss with B. Keiser, DPW Director, regarding the cost of ice melt.

DDA Budget Amendment Request

This item will be held until the April 27th meeting regarding the downtown WiFi and Professional Services line items on the DDA budget.

VII. New Business:

DDA Directory on Village Website

The DDA Board had an opportunity to review the updates to the Village website page entitled Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Motion by D. Gajda to work with N. Essad to update the Village website to reflect current information regarding the DDA and bring draft to the next meeting. Second, T. Lareau. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Bellaire Leadership Class Request

The Board was presented with a letter from Leanne Colvin of the Bellaire Middle School and is the advisor of the Bellaire Leadership Class. They are in possession of a piano and are interested in painting the piano and placing it in a public space in the downtown area for the public to use. A discussion followed and M. Dayton will head this project as the DDA point person. She will report next month regarding the outcome of having this project placed downtown.

VIII. Miscellaneous Business of the Authority Board:

Business Connector Series hosted by Antrim County EDC was shared with the DDA Board. This event will take place on April 19, 2022 and can be attended either in person or as a Zoom Webinar.

Questions were raised regarding the following: When will locks be placed on the doors of the new restrooms? Without locks, individuals have access to the construction site. There is a Village ordinance of no skateboarding or bicycle riding on the downtown sidewalks. Checking on the posting of signage to let individuals know of these ordinances. The upcoming anniversary party hosted by Short's: M-88 will be closed between Broad and Cayuga Streets. Requested that signage be placed on the road closure signs **BUSINESSES are OPEN**. Food trucks will be located in the Post Office parking lot. M. Dayton will check with Short's regarding the use of the DDA tables and chairs at this event. T. Lareau will

take an inventory of the tables and chairs. Discussion followed about placing the tables in chairs throughout the downtown area as was done in the past. This will take place early in the summer.

IX. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

None

X. Adjourn:

Motion by T. Lareau. Second by D. Gajda to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned by Chair D. Hoyt at 10:41 am. The DDA's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27th at 9:00 am.