

**Village of Bellaire
Downtown Development Authority
Minutes
Wednesday, July 28, 2021**

I. Call to Order:

Chairperson Don Hoyt called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

II. Attendance:

Members Present: Dan Bennett, Dave Gajda, Don Hoyt, Don Seman, Tracy Lareau, Cindi Place, Taylor Sutherland, Doreen McGuire

Members Absent: Mark Irwin

Public Present: Shelly Dayton

III. Consent Agenda:

Motion by D. Seman to approve the consent agenda. Second by T. Sutherland. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Motion by T. Lareau to approve the financial report. Second C. Place. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Motion by D. Gajda to approve the amended minutes of the June 30, 2021 to correct the spelling of “complied” to “compiled”. Second D. Seman. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items:

None

V. Unfinished Business:

Buy Local Update - Shelly Dayton

There was no meeting in July, the next scheduled meeting is August 24th.

They will also be hosting a table at the upcoming High Tea event in August. The M-88 Market Tour was very successful.

Village Update

The trees from the site of the new downtown restrooms have been moved to Richardi Park. The Board had an opportunity to review the blueprints for the new restrooms. Construction on the new restrooms to begin any day. Sidewalk construction has been completed on the south end and work is underway on the sidewalks on the north end. D. Bennett is working on an in person meeting with the company regarding WiFi. B. Keiser will be reviewing hot spots in the downtown. Ballpark renovation is underway at Craven Park which includes changes to the campground. The Village has also applied for a government grant to defray the cost to update the sewer system.

Unified Action Plan Update

The three take aways from the Unified Action Plan committee were Richardi Park updating (this is out of the jurisdiction of the DDA), WiFi downtown and public restrooms downtown. The Village has taken charge of the public restrooms downtown and the WiFi. The DDA will continue to check in with the Parks Commission on the updating of the park.

Discussion continued on the grant that was awarded by the Rotary Charities as well as the Village contribution to pay State Craft as the facilitator for the Unified Action Plan Committee. The grant money as well as the money from the Village were not fully used. Historical information will be gathered to determine the guidelines for the grant as well as the Village's contribution. D. Hoyt will reach out to M. Irwin regarding specific details of the grant and if the DDA can repurpose the grant for another use.

Since the first part of the Unified Action Plan is close to being completed, discussion followed regarding the next phase. This is a good opportunity to share the accomplishments of the DDA over the past five years. The board has been asked to submit to D.Hoyt before the next meeting, ideas/topics to be considered for discussion - a road map to the future.

DDA Boundary Expansion

D. Gajda shared a color coded DDA proposed boundary expansion map. The rationale in considering a DDA expansion is additional tax dollars for DDA projects. Discussion followed with a determination that the expansion be considered in the future. The current focus is on completing projects that are beneficial within the current DDA boundary.

Way Finding Signage

D. McGuire met with N. Essad and B. Keiser regarding way finding signage.

Proposed kiosk design and location were shared. The board has asked for an example and cost of the proposed design and the possible locations. D. McGuire will work with N. Essad, B. Keiser and the members of the Buy Local Group.

Community Development Roadmap/Rotary

D. McGuire attended the zoom meeting on July 15, 2021. A varied group of community leaders from across the region that gather quarterly to highlight their work within their region, provide a platform for guest speakers, and gather ideas for future rural community development.

VI. New Business:

C. Place shared with the board that the Bellaire Library applied for a grant that will allow for the purchase of two solar hub picnic tables. The tables are all weather and made from 7200 water bottles. These tables are solar powered and will have four charging stations for phones and hubs for computers. One of the tables will be placed at the library. It was suggested that the second table be placed in front of the Frontier building. C. Place will check with Frontier regarding the placement opportunity.

VII. Miscellaneous Business:

D. McGuire recognized Shelly Dayton from the Flying Pig on her nomination as a Woman Business Owner. Great coverage in the Record Eagle.

D. Seman announced that the Veterans Emergency Fund is available for those Veterans who are in an emergency financial need. The Veterans can contact the VA office located on the main floor in the Antrim County building.

VIII. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

S. Dayton invited each of DDA Board members to visit the downtown businesses and get to know them - have a conversation with a business owner. Create an atmosphere of trust. Also suggested that given the length of the DDA meetings, zoom or live streaming might be a good option to have in place so that more businesses can attend.

IX. Adjourned:

Motion by D. Seman. Second by C. Place to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned by Chair Hoyt at 10:42 am .