

Village of Bellaire
Downtown Development Authority Minutes
Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by M. Dayton at 9:00 am

Pledge of Allegiance:

Attendance:

Members Present: Dan Bennett, Michael Belanger, Margie Boyd, Michelle Dayton, Dave Gajda, Don Hoyt, Doreen McGuire, Adrienne Wolff

Members Absent: Jamie Creason

Public Present: Jean Bedell

Consent Agenda:

A. Wolff motion to accept the amended Consent Agenda as follows: add Update Downtown Map at Public Restroom to Marketing and Communications. To Approval of Bills: invoice from Pro Image for parking signs, memo from Antrim County Treasurer for overpayment from the Meadowbrook millage that the DDA is not eligible to receive. The years are 2017-2023 in the amount of \$2,264.44. D. Gajda will review to insure that the DDA was not charged interest and will schedule payment. Total bills to be paid, \$2803.60. Second, D.Gajda. Motion approved.

Public Comment on Agenda:

None

Unfinished Business:

Buy Local Update

Brenda Fink continues to work on a template letter that addresses sidewalk safety that businesses can use to send to Bradley Keiser as he continues to move forward with a grant request to M-Dot. Social media is up 116%. At the Michigan Downtown Association summer seminar it was stated that 30% of women will visit Pinterest to plan vacations. Conversations within the group continue on possible winter events.

Village Update

D. Bennett provided an update regarding short term rentals within the Village. There are currently 27 within the Village and there is no policy in place regarding licensing or annual fee. Parking continues to be a problem regarding RV and boats on the streets. The definition of the “historical sidewalk step” stated by M-Dot is still being reviewed. The Village audit is complete and are out of financial difficulties.

Grants Committee

The exhibition continues to receive great reviews. The QR code is being utilized. The committee is working with free lance writer Austin Rowlander. He is writing 12 weekly articles that are published in the Antrim Review. Each week he interviews one of the participating artists and includes a photo of them with their art as well as he mentions the business location of each piece. He also is mentioning the on line auction which opens October 15th. D. McGuire will check with Cindi Place regarding the renewal of the Auctria license for the auction.

New Grant Application

M. Dayton will speak with Tracy Lareau regarding an update on the new grant submission. Also shared that there are six individuals that are interested in becoming members of a grant art committee.

Marketing & Communication

M. Dayton will check with Cindi Place regarding the ZOOM link for the DDA meetings.

DDA Logo

The board reviewed the samples that were created by J. Creason. It was suggested we obtain quotes from Judy Stillwell and Sarah Bozarth to design the DDA logo. The quotes will be presented at the August meeting.

DDA Name Tags

Suggested we table this discussion until the DDA has a permanent logo.

Marketing Video

Still in progress.

Update Downtown Map at the Public Restrooms

Since we have had a few business changes in downtown, it was suggested that we redo the map at the downtown restroom. D. Hoyt also suggested that in addition to the large map we have three small versions made to place on the posts once the artwork is removed. D. McGuire will speak with Rachel Krino to obtain a quote

for map revisions and Pro Image for a new map and three smaller map versions. The quotes will be presented at the August meeting.

Banner Program

D. McGuire has requested a quote from Pro Image for 50 two sided banners, to include hardware. This will be presented at the August meeting. Bradley Keiser has been part of the process and the DPW will install the banners. Two draft documents were presented, the Call for Artists and the Sponsorship Opportunity. D. McGuire will work with Sarah Bozarth. It was suggested that Diane Bennett might be interested in working on this project. D. McGuire will contact her. Once the call for artists and sponsorships documents have been completed they will be posted on social media, the Village of Bellaire DDA webpage, the Bellaire art website, and a flyer will be created.

Parking Committee

Currently the parking signs are placed at the County lots on Friday evening and removed on Sunday. The other parking signs are in place and the lots are being utilized.

Piano Update

D. Hoyt stated the schools are still looking for the piano. Suggested that we consider a post on social media, “Where’s the piano?”

New Business:

Discussion and Creation of Procedures to Welcome New Businesses

It was agreed that we need to have a procedure in place to welcome new businesses to the downtown. Suggested that we create a personal letter, flowers, and map as a few suggestions. It was also suggested that the DDA welcome Sweet Ree’s Candy Company with a flower bouquet. Motion by D. Hoyt to fund up to \$30 for a welcome bouquet. Second, M. Belanger. Motion approved. A. Wolff will deliver the bouquet and welcome letter on Friday after the Farmers Market.

Miscellaneous Business of the Authority Board:

M. Boyd will attend the next Village Council meeting and provide the DDA update.

D. Hoyt updated the Board that the Bellaire Chamber new Interim Director is Brandy Craft.

D. Bennett stated that the Bellaire Lofts have received their permits and that the new construction next to McDonalds is a car wash.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

M. Boyd distributed the County newsletter and an information business card with a QR code to update citizens on the new Public Safety Center that is on the November ballot. Jail tours are available through October, limited to 15 individuals and minors are not allowed on the tour. A Sheriff will be posted at each polling site in November. With the resignation of the County Prosecutor the head of the court will appoint an interim prosecutor to complete the current term and an appointment will be made for the next term, no election will take place.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.