

**DRAFT**  
**Village of Bellaire**  
**Downtown Development Authority Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 29, 2024**

**Call to Order:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Attendance:**

Members Present: Michael Belanger, Margie Boyd, Jamie Creason, Michelle Dayton, Don Hoyt, Doreen McGuire, Adrienne Wolff

Members Absent: Dan Bennett, Dave Gajda

Public Present: Jean Bedell, Patrick Boyd representing the Village

Phone Attendee: Dave Gajda

**Consent Agenda:**

J. Creason motion to amend the Consent Agenda to add, **budget will need to be amended at a later date instead of D. Gajda will amend the budget for training.** Second, M. Belanger. Motion approved.

**Public Comment on Agenda:**

None

**Unfinished Business:**

**Welcome New Board Member**

Adrienne Wolff

**Buy Local Update**

S. Dayton reported that the Home and Garden Show had 20 registered vendors with 15 vendors in attendance the day of the event. Good foot traffic, hopefully continue next year. Passed out welcome packets, M-88 Market Tour is Saturday, June 15th, downtown maps completed and are now available. Flower planting organized by Brenda and Rollie Fink went very well. DPW placed all the pots and had them ready for planting. There were three broken pots which needed to be replaced at a cost of \$300. S. Dayton announced that at the end of the year she

will be stepping down as head of the Buy Local group. J, Creason will take over the Art is Sweet event and the group is looking for others to take over the remaining events. Traverse Bay Lifestyle magazine is presenting articles about Bellaire, great coverage.

### **Village Update**

P. Boyd, representing the Village, provided the update. Recently all the streets have been swept. Budget in good shape and Craven Park all updated. Current staff, with both being new, are doing a great job. Cathy Odom is currently working with staff. Bellaire Lofts is still moving forward, looking for a late October occupancy.

### **Grants Committee**

The exhibition brochure will feature each artist individually on the cover and will be available soon. Opening reception at the Flying Pig is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4th, 5 - 6:30 pm. Frames are completed. Thank you to Terry Coates, Jeff Krino and Paul Ritacco for their assistance with the framing and installation of the exhibition images. Discussion about the possibility of creating an Art Committee/Council as the work involved in creating and hosting an exhibition is more involved than having a couple of individuals managing the entire process.

The DDA has an opportunity to apply for a mini grant with MACC, deadline is August 3rd. Tracy Lareau has volunteered to write the grant. Motion by A. Wolff to apply for the MACC Minigrant. Second, J. Creason. Discussion followed. Motion approved.

S. Dayton attended the MACC conference and she shared that it was stated that 78% of the people who travel or looking for a place to live, cultural and art are a major factor in their decision. This statement supports what we are doing in downtown Bellaire.

### **Marketing & Communication**

J. Creason is currently working on all the GMAIL passwords for the DDA accounts.

### **Banner Program**

D. McGuire reported about the Banner Committee meeting and introduced community member Sarah Bozarth who spoke about the proposed banner program regarding a call for artists, deadlines, how many poles, size of banners, final decision and proposed installation date. As the discussion continued and this being a new program, J. Bedell mentioned that the Historical Museum has historical photos that are already digitized. Discussion followed regarding this idea and was well received. The DDA understands that the Village Council will have final approval of the direction of the banner program as it is different from

the banners that were recently removed. Motion by M. Boyd to recommend to Village Council the idea of installing historical banners. Second, J. Creason. Motion approved. D. Hoyt left early, did not vote. S. Dayton will present this idea to the Village Council at their June 5, 2024 meeting.

M. Belanger spoke about the possibility of installing large vinyl banners outside the Community Hall possibly announcing current programs.

### **Parking Committee**

S. Dayton will contact County Administrator, Jeremy Scott regarding placement of parking signs around the County buildings. Hopefully, the fences will be down by June 20th around the County buildings. S. Dayton will obtain a couple of quotes for Free Parking signs.

### **New Business:**

#### **Designing a DDA Logo**

During the discussion of the banner program it was recommended that J. Creason create a couple of examples for a DDA logo. These will be presented at the June, 2024 DDA meeting. D. Hoyt shared during that discussion the importance of a DDA logo is to make the public aware of what has been accomplished.

#### **Budget Allotment for Training and Seminars**

This item will be moved to the October Agenda for discussion at that time.

#### **Placement of DDA Tables and Chairs**

The Village needs to approve placement at their next council meeting, Wednesday, June 5th. S. Dayton will speak with Stonewaters Inn about placing a couple of tables near the artwork. Tables and chairs will be placed on June 12th. Meet at the Community Hall at 9 am to assist in placing the tables and chairs throughout the downtown area.

#### **Miscellaneous Business of the Authority Board:**

S. Dayton will check on the availability of a piano to bring it back downtown. The piano is missed by many.

#### **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

9&10 News, The Four, is featuring Antrim County. They did a great interview on the Bellaire Historical Museum.

Open House at the Antrim County Building will take place on June 20th, 3 - 5 pm. The building looks great. The County did a Call for Art to local photographers and there are about 30 photos displayed in the hallways featuring Antrim County.

The EDC, after Labor Day, will be inviting local DDA's, Chambers and other EDC groups to provide updates as to what each group is currently working on. More information to follow.

**Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 am.

Approved:

Minutes compiled by: D. McGuire