

**Village of Bellaire**  
**Downtown Development Authority**  
**Minutes**  
**August 31, 2022**

**I. Call to Order:**

Vice Chair T. Sutherland called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:**

**III. Attendance:**

Members Present: Michelle Dayton, Dave Gajda, Doreen McGuire, Cindi Place, Don Seman, Taylor Sutherland

Members Absent: Dan Bennett, Don Hoyt, Tracy Lareau

Public Present: Jean Bedell, Eldon McPherson, Christy Wilson

Public Present via ZOOM: None

**IV. Consent Agenda:**

Motion by C. Place 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:**

M. Dayton reported that the parking signs have been helpful. Music and piano have been a great addition to downtown Bellaire. Trash is still an issue. Rubber Ducky Festival was very successful. Coupon packets were provided to Shanty Creek for one of their upcoming conventions. M. Dayton will continue to work with Shanty Creek to provide the packets. Thank you to the Bellaire Public Library for providing a self inking stamp with the Buy Local logo. This has been very helpful in creating the coupon packets for Shanty Creek as well as the

Vintage Shop Hop. The budget is available to cover the advertising for the upcoming Art & Music Stroll (Friday, October 7 th, 4 pm - 8 pm) as well as the Downtown Bellaire Holiday Open House. Parking on Bridge Lane continues to be an issue with improper parking, blocking walkways and delivery areas.

**Village Update:**

Kayak station still in process. The ballfields have the sprinklers in place, seeding done except for the high school field. September 18th the water rates will be reviewed. Antrim County has announced the sale of the food pantry building.

**Public WiFi:**

C. Place read a note from Jeremy Scott from Antrim County regarding broadband. The County is continuing to work on this and are pleased that the DDA is a willing partner. Regarding the Solar Hub Table outside the Frontier building, the WiFi will be available soon. Tables are being used and a great addition to the community.

**DDA Parking Committee:**

Signage has been placed on hold until next year's budget is in place.

**DIA/Outdoor Art:**

It was determined that the Inside/Out program from the DIA that we participated in a couple of years ago is no longer available to our area. This was a grant funded program. The program does still exist but only to the Metro Detroit surrounding area. T. Lareau will continue to work with the Development Department at the DIA and possibly bring local artist Charles Culver's work to an outdoor exhibit. It was mentioned that the Denmos Museum presented Mr. Culver's work in an outdoor setting. D. McGuire will follow up with the Museum.

**VII. New Business:**

**Bike Racks:**

D. McGuire presented the information regarding the bike racks along with a photo of one of the racks. The six bike racks which can hold up to twelve bikes are being donated by *Paddles and Pedals*. The proposed location for the bike racks will be in the grassy area near the new downtown restrooms. We have been asked to provide the money for the concrete slab. The DPW will handle the forming up

and pouring of the concrete. The DPW will also provide the hardware and do the installation. Motion by C. Place to allocate up to \$600.00 towards the purchase of the concrete for the bike rack. Second, M. Dayton. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

#### **DDA Boundary Expansion:**

The process has been reviewed again this year by D. Gajda. He stated that he could not show deteriorating property values between 2022 vs 2021 which is key to expanding the DDA boundaries. Grants can be available but not a sure thing nor consistent. A tax base to rely on is important to budget and forecasting. The Village would need to agree to expansion of the DDA boundaries. Dave is suggesting that the DDA boundary expansion be explored in future years.

#### **2023 Budget Priorities:**

D. Gajda presented a list of projects that we will rank as we prepare for next year's budget. The projects listed are the result of a recent survey to businesses and building owners in the DDA district. This discussion and ranking will take place over the next couple of meetings.

#### **Fundraising Idea:**

Christy Wilson from *Hello Vino* presented a program that is taking place in various communities, an Outdoor Refreshment Area. Patrons purchase a "cup" from a participating business for a set price, single use, with the "cup" purchase being the donation to the organization minus cost of the cup. The patron then fills with their favorite beverage. Signage is important and guidelines would need to be established. The program has been successful in many communities. Discussion followed and the DDA Board recommended that Christy speak with the Village as to any ordinances and then speak with the other establishments in Bellaire to inquire their level of interest in this program. The DDA cannot sponsor nor host this program but can receive the donations from the cup sales by the local businesses. Christy will provide an update at next month's meeting.

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

C. Place is working on the upcoming DDA newsletter. The Board provided suggested topics to be included in the newsletter.

M. Dayton shared information regarding the **DDA Meet and Greet** to be held at Terrain. The proposed date is Monday, October 3rd. This is a tentative date as confirmation needs to be received from Terrain. Also the Bellaire Chamber of Commerce will need to confirm as this will possibly be a Chamber After Hours event. T. Sutherland agreed to reach out to the local restaurants regarding food donations for the event. Confirmation of date and time will be presented at next month's meeting.

M. Dayton commented that the ribbon cutting for the new downtown restroom was not advertised. An official opening should take place attended by Village Council and the DDA Board. Signage should be made available so that individuals know that the restrooms are now open and who provided the funding for the restrooms. As a member of the Village Council, Eldon McPherson said that he will take this information to the Council at their next meeting

**IX. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

None.

**X. Adjourn:**

Motion by M. Dayton to adjourn the meeting. Second, C. Place. Meeting adjourned by T. Sutherland at 10:22 am. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 9 am.