

**Village of Bellaire**  
**Downtown Development Authority**  
**Minutes**  
**September 28, 2022**

**I. Call to Order:**

Board member Dave Gajda called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Attendance:**

Members Present: Dan Bennett, Michelle Dayton, Dave Gajda, Cindi Place, Tracy Lareau

Members Absent: Don Hoyt, Doreen McGuire, Don Seman, Taylor Sutherland

Public Present: Jean Bedell, Brenda Fink

Public Present via ZOOM: Don Hoyt, Christy Wilson

**IV. Consent Agenda (voting item)**

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

**V. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Don Hoyt talked about the idea of choosing places around Bellaire for “Selfie Stations”. It was suggested the DDA email businesses and ask for input regarding where these stations could be placed. Don also sent a text message with pictures of similar stations he saw in Galena, Ill. Which were shared with the board. Don will speak with Pro Image to get pricing on signage for this project. S. Dayton commented that allowing businesses to have a station by their building might be a fundraising idea. T. Lareau wanted to make sure the signage for this project is aesthetically pleasing, asking that the DDA be able to see an example of the signage. Don also said that the Chamber of Commerce is excited to work on this project as well, extending the stations to areas outside the DDA boundaries. Don also shared with the DDA board that he is not hearing back from Charter/Spectrum, so believe he needs to go back to trying to find an affordable resource for WiFi in downtown. Don said there were no updates from the parking committee.

## VI. Unfinished Business

- Buy Local Update (Shelly): Harvest Festival went well, businesses had a good day, Upcoming events include: a Vintage Shop Tour this coming weekend. Businesses who hand out goodie bags will have info that is also being shared with conference attendees at Shanty Creek Resort (these packets are prepared through Buy Local). Other events coming up include the Bellaire Art & Music Stroll on October 7th from 4-7pm: music by the high school choir and performing arts department, and there will be displays of art by BPS students, face painting at the library, and various businesses will be hosting music and/or local artists. November 19<sup>th</sup> is the Holiday Open House. Buy Local is planning a photo contest for new pictures for the Bellaire maps. Shelly also shared that she will be meeting with the staff at Shanty Creek to make sure the promotional packets are being distributed. Shelly asked who owned the flags on the poles downtown and D. Bennet indicated the Village owned the flags and that Shelly should contact the Village Clerk Nicole Assad for more information.
- Village Update (Dan): lots of positives to report: the public restrooms are done, a sign crediting the Village and the DDA for their support of the project will be displayed; there will be a dedication of the public restroom project during which the Village will recognize Jim Barnard for his work on the project. The DDA Board will be invited to this event. The recent ribbon cutting at the public restrooms by the Chamber of Commerce was discussed. Grass on the softball fields is going well. Dan visited a skate park in Escanaba, Michigan recently that he felt was very well done and might be a model for a skate park project in Bellaire. There has been a request by a media company to place an internet tower on the fire barn roof. Dan will follow up and report to the DDA.
- Public WiFi (Cindi & Don): no more information other than noting that Jeremy Scott from Antrim County is aware of the DDA's interest in bringing broadband to downtown.
- DDA Parking Committee (Don and Taylor): S. Dayton commented that the new temporary directional signs for parking has helped the parking situation. D. Bennett indicated that the Village is negotiating with the County to potentially trade a right of way in Richardi Park for parking space in the lot adjacent to the food pantry. T. Lareau asked about adding a crosswalk from the Emma's Way area to across M-88. She asked if there was a possibility of petitioning MDOT for this to happen.
- Outdoor Art (Tracy and Doreen): Tracy shared that the DIA grant fund for the prior community art display project is no longer available. Doreen is reaching out to cities who have displayed art; discussion about what it would cost to display

art, specifically Charles Culver art, as a DDA project. Tracy also shared that the Denno's Museum, which has displayed Culver's art, does not share their art with other organizations. C. Place, T. Lareau, and S. Dayton volunteered to work with D. McGuire to look into grants that may be available use for this project.

- Meet and Greet (Shelly and Taylor): The DDA Meet & Greet is all set for Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30-7 at Terrain. Cash bar will be available, and appetizers are being provided by Terrain, Corner Bistro, and Shanty Creek. Buy Local, various businesses and others have been promoting this event on their social media. The agenda for the event will be: welcome and introductions by D. Hoyt, highlighting various DDA projects, upcoming budget priorities with information about the funds that the DDA receives. C.Place volunteered to create a flyer to hand out with a list of Budget priorities. C.Place will also bring copies of the first two DDA eNewsletters and will have a sign up sheet for anyone who would like to receive those eNewsletters by email.
- Bike Racks (Doreen): the Village Council approved this project at their monthly meeting.
- 2023 Budget Priorities (Don and Dave): Dave will email DDA members the list of possible DDA projects gathered from the last survey and asks that we prioritize them. Dave will collate the information and share at the next meeting.
- Fundraising Idea: S.Dayton suggested the DDA consider some kind of dinner fundraiser to raise money for DDA projects. There was considerable discussion about the beverage cup event idea Christy Wilson suggested at the last DDA meeting. Suggestions included taking the emphasis off of drinking adult beverages to having mock tails and other soft beverages, rather than highlighting alcohol consumption at this event. D. Bennett and D. Gajda expressed concerns about promoting such an event for the DDA and asked how the liquor licensing and liability issues would be addressed. S.Dayton suggested that it may be better for an local group to sponsor the event with funds raised being a donation to the DDA. It was also asked if there is a fidelity bond from the Village on behalf of members of the DDA. S. Dayton was going to ask the Village Clerk about this matter. It was also suggested someone contact the community of Ferndale who has done this type of event to find out how they protected themselves liability wise.

## **VII. New Business**

- Selfie Stations (Don): see above comment information under public comment.
- DDA Board Member Question (Dave): D.Gajda has been travelling between homes to come to DDA meetings and has decided he can't continue to do that

any longer. This would mean he would attend approximately 6 out of 12 yearly meetings in person. He is willing to do this and want to continue as the DDA treasurer. D. Hoyt commented that Dave has a lot of experience and that the DDA Board should consider Dave's request to stay on the board. D. Bennett was going to verify that there is not an attendance requirement to serve on the DDA Board.

**VIII. Miscellaneous Business of the Authority Board - None**

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

Brenda Fink asked that the DDA share publicly the possible project list with the DDA businesses so as to provide transparency regarding what projects the DDA is considering. C.Place volunteered to add these items to the Meet & Greet Flyer and share with DDA members. This flyer could be shared with businesses via email.

- X. **Adjourn:** D. Gajda closed the meeting at 10:30am. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 9am.