

**Village of Bellaire
Downtown Development Authority
Minutes
Wednesday, September 29, 2021**

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

III. Attendance:

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

Members Absent: None

Public Present: Shelly Dayton, Tani Carl, Bradley Keiser

IV. Consent Agenda:

Addition to the Agenda under Unfinished Business - Rural Community Development Round Table.

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

V. Public Comment on Agenda Items:

None

VI. Unfinished Business:

Buy Local Update - Shelly Dayton

Met with Police Chief Drollinger regarding a shoplifting event that took place during the Harvest Festival and how to alert all businesses in town. Art/Music Stroll will be held on Friday, October 15th with 11 businesses participating. Holiday Open House will be held November 20th.

Suggested that the DDA live stream or ZOOM the meetings which would allow Buy Local Group members to attend. Discussion by the DDA regarding this request will be added to next month's agenda.

In the prior budget year DDA funds were appropriated for the Buy Local Group with a remaining balance of unused funds still available. These funds will need to be reappropriated for the current budget year. Protocol for requesting funds should be sent electronically to Chairperson D. Hoyt for discussion at the next available DDA meeting. The Buy Local Group is requesting advertising funds for the upcoming Art/Music Stroll in the amount of \$600.00.

Motion by C. Place. Second by D. Seman to provide up to \$600 to place an ad for the upcoming Art/Music Stroll in The Express. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Discussion took place regarding the continuation of renting the port-a-johns since construction has begun on the new restrooms. It was stated that our contract with the Security Sanitation was paid thru September 30, 2021. In the past the local restaurants have indicated that their businesses allow the public to use their restrooms. The Community Hall also provides public restrooms. T. Lareau has volunteered to speak with the local restaurants.

Motion by C. Place for the removal of the port-a-johns by October 1, 2021 with verification that the local restaurants allow the public to use their restrooms. Second D. Gajda. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Village Update

Construction on the new downtown restrooms has broken ground. Water and sewer have been tapped. The infields and outfields at the four baseball diamonds in Craven Park should be completed in the next week. Fencing has been ordered. D. Bennett met with the representative from Aspen Wireless and did a walk around the downtown area for possible location for a wireless tower/amplifier.

B. Keiser, the Village of Bellaire DPW Supervisor, spoke regarding the broadband that Antrim County Commissioners are currently studying. He explained that broadband is a fiberoptic trunk line that is leased to companies like AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon, Charter etc. The county's main focus is to support dead areas.

Public WiFi would need a central location like the Village Office or the bathhouse in Craven Park. Another consideration in installing public WiFi is the cost of leasing the line, who will pay? First step would be to speak with the various providers.

Unified Action Plan Update

Public WiFi discussed under Village Update

Way Finding Signage

It was suggested that the map size that will be located in the pavilion area of the new restroom will be 4ft by 3ft. Since the size has been determined D. McGuire will contact Pro Image regarding a quote.

Motion by T. Lareau. Second by C. Place for D. McGuire to purchase temporary signage directing visitors to use the public restrooms in the Community Hall. A budget of \$200 was suggested for the signs. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Unified Action Plan Funding

There is a balance of \$12,000 remaining from the original Rotaries Charity Grant. The funding will be allocated for public WiFi downtown. C. Place has volunteered to explore upfront costs and sourcing for a provider, i.e. T-Mobile, Charter, AT&T, Verizon, TrueStream etc.

2021 and Beyond

Discussion took place regarding 2021 and Beyond. What have been the accomplishments of the DDA over the past five years? Should a survey be developed to determine what the downtown businesses, and building owners see as important projects, best forms of communication, their vision for downtown Bellaire? M. Irwin will contact NLEA, MSU Extension and the State of Michigan DDA organization for survey questions, what services can they provide, costs for hosting. Update and discussion will be added to next month's agenda.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited today and will continue to be a part of the regular agenda.

Rural Community Development Round Table

C. Place will attend the upcoming round table meeting as the DDA representative.

VII. New Business:

None

VIII. Miscellaneous Business:

None

IX. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

None

X. Adjourn:

Motion by D. Seman. Second T. Sutherland to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned by Chair D. Hoyt at 10:21 am.