

Village of Bellaire
Downtown Development Authority

Louise Wenzel, Chairperson
Don Hoyt, Vice-Chairperson
Doug Dawson, Secretary
Christy Wilson, Treasurer

Downtown Development Authority Minutes

Special Meeting Friday, June 24, 2020

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson, Louise Wenzel called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Attendance:

Members Present: Christy Wilson; Louise Wenzel; Mark Irwin; Joe Short; Rolland Fink; Doug Dawson; Don Hoyt; Dan Bennett
Members Absent: Don Seman
Guest Present: None

3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Motioned by Irwin, seconded by Fink to approve the agenda, motion carried a unanimous vote.

4. **Public Comment on Agenda:** No public in attendance

5. Unfinished Business:

- Bellaire Community Action Plan Update – Wenzel noted the Seed Grant has been submitted to Rotary Charities pending approval.
- Social Distancing Initiative/Buy Local Report – Wenzel updated the Board members on the Village council decision regarding the DDA request to close Broad street, increasing hours for public restrooms and the use of the Village owned grassy area next to Short’s. The Council board approved the use of the grassy area, however they declined the DDA request to close Broad Street and agreed to research the public restroom situation. The Council did make a motion to allow the use of the grassy area next to the Community hall. Subsequent to the Council’s decision, Short was approached and agreed to the use of the lot between the Pharmacy and Bee Well as an alternative location for the social distancing initiative. Wenzel noted tables, chairs and umbrellas have been ordered for the social distancing areas. The Buy Local group were very excited and agreed to volunteer maintaining the social distancing areas. Short indicated the lot will now be known as the Tiffany Commerce Area rather than a parking lot. Wilson has worked on creating signs for each of the 3 areas which will include rules for the areas and QR codes. Short suggested using porta potties in the social distancing areas to help alleviate the public rest room issue.

- Water Wayfinding Signage – Hoyt reported he contacted the Executive Director of Paddle Antrim regarding the signage they will be placing throughout the Waterway. Hoyt suggested the DDA put the Water Wayfinding Signage project on hold until Paddle Antrim installs their signs and determine if further signage is required. Wenzel noted Paddle Antrim will be including the DDA as a named sponsor on one of the Water trail signs.
- Foundation Update – Wenzel noted the Foundation had applied for a \$50,000 grant from MEDC Match on Main program. This would allow the Foundation to provide \$5,000 to 10 businesses to help during COVID-19. The Foundation was unable to secure the \$50,000 due to the large number of applicants, however Statecraft is working with the Foundation to secure other funding for the Foundation Relief Fund.
- DIA Summer Art Display – Hoyt reported the DIA would be installing the art work in Bellaire July 25th and 26th. Hoyt and Wilson will be coordinating a marketing campaign to promote the art work display.

6. New Business:

- Rubber Ducky Festival/Parade – Short expressed concern regarding the Chamber's decision to conduct the Rubber Ducky festival/parade. The concern focused on whether or not this was a responsible choice for our community to conduct such an activity based on the fact that all other communities nationwide are cancelling such activities due to the COVID-19 crisis. This concern was echoed by several Board members. Wilson provided information from the Chamber on the event. The Board members discussed at length this topic in an attempt to decide whether or not the DDA should take a stance on this issue. Irwin noted it would be imperative to obtain specific information from the Chamber regarding the activities associated with the event and safety measures they plan to implement before the DDA takes any position on this matter.
- SBC Monthly Financial Support – Wenzel reported on a discussion with Short regarding the monthly contribution received from SBC. In light of SBC's modified budget analysis, SBC indicated they would need to reduce their monthly contribution. Irwin noted that this is long overdue and was happy to see this as the DDA needs to step up and identify other alternative funding sources and this issue needs to be a top priority for the DDA. Short identified potential other methods for fundraising for the DDA. Wenzel noted she would contact the other DDA's in the area for information on how they secure funding.

7. Miscellaneous Business:

- Wenzel directed the members to 2 Letters of Support that have been sent from the DDA thanking the businesses for their financial support for the downtown plants and the tables, chairs and umbrellas.
- Wenzel noted a Press Release has been sent to various media groups regarding the Social Distancing areas in downtown.

- Short suggested the use of the grassy area behind Ruthies to further enhance the social distancing locations.

8. **Public Comment on Non Agenda Items:** No public in attendance

9. **Adjourned:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Meeting minutes compiled by Louise Wenzel and Doug Dawson