

**Village of Bellaire
Downtown Development Authority
Grants Committee
March 6, 2026
Minutes**

Members present: Shelly Dayton, Margie Boyd, Jamie Creason

Members absent: None

Others present: None

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m. by Shelly Dayton.

2. DDPledge of Allegiance

3. Attendance

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None

5. New Business

The committee members discussed the Consumers Energy Foundation/Rural Partners of Michigan “Put Your Town on the Map” Pitch Competition Grant (flyer attached). There was speculation as to whether organizations like Crosshatch Center for Art and Ecology or Area Seniors, Inc. would be submitting grant application. There is an expectation that ASI will be applying as a way to partially fund the community center expansion.

Ms. Dayton suggested the possibility of a building wrap or a mural on the front of the Frontier building, noting this type of project would compliment the selfie-station idea that the DDA and Chamber have been talking about.

Ms. Boyd noted applications would likely score higher if the proposed project ticked a number of boxes. She suggested writing the grant to purchase a giant pre-lit LED rubber duck as part of an annual “Duck Drop” to ring in the new year, similar to the way the “Cherry Drop” is used in Traverse City. Ms. Creason said this would be a unique way to celebrate not just a new year, but also the 40th anniversary of the Rubber Duck Festival and would wrap in the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Dayton said this would also wrap in the Village of Bellaire if the duck is placed on Village-owned property downtown. The committee agreed this type of project would attract visitors downtown, potentially increase tourism during the off-season, unify the community, and reflect the community’s pride in its annual events.

Motion by Creason, second by Boyd to apply for the Consumers Energy Foundations Pitch Competition Grant with Tracey LaReaux as the grant writer.

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Motion passed – unanimous

Ms. Dayton said she would send information on the grant and the project to Tracy Lareaux who will be writing the grant. The deadline for submission is March 20, 2026.

6. Old Business

MACC Grant

Members discussed the Michigan Arts and Culture Council grant award. Ms. Creason noted the grant of \$1,200 was slightly less than what was applied for. Ms. Boyd noted the full Board will have to officially accept the grant award at the next DDA meeting scheduled for March 25, 2026. The award will be used to fund the outdoor public art exhibition.

Members reviewed the draft Call for Artists for the exhibition. Ms. Creason will reach out to Willa Graham at Bellaire Public Schools to invite her to judge the 2026 competition. Ms. Creason said she would reach out to artists and art galleries in the region and put out a press release about the exhibition.

It was the consensus of the committee to add verbiage to the call for artists encouraging the incorporation of the 250th anniversary of America.

It was the consensus of the committee to include language indicating partisan politics pieces would be disqualified from consideration.

It was the consensus of the committee to include language noting weight would be given to works by artists from Bellaire or pieces depicting Bellaire.

It was the consensus of the committee to set the dates for the exhibition as follows:
Call for artist to open on March 10, 2026; Submission deadline for April 17, 2026;
Artist notification on May 4, 2026; exhibit installation goal date for Memorial Day weekend; exhibition run dates from Memorial Day through mid-October.

7. Miscellaneous Business

8. Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.