

**Village of Downers Grove
Community Grants Commission
MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY
Ante Room, Village Hall
May 8, 2002**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dave Humphreys called the Community Grants Commission Meeting to order at 3:35 P.M.
Members in attendance: Dave Humphreys, Chairman
Grace Beggs, Ed Bunting, Kathy Nybo, Pat Winter
Staff: Susan Brassfield
Visitors: None

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 25, 2002 MINUTES

Dave Humphreys moved to approve as amended the minutes of January 25, 2002. Ed Bunting seconded the motion.

III. REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS OF GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Community Grants Commission met on Saturday, April 27, 2002 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Committee Room to hear presentations and have a question and answer session with 18 of the 19 grant applicants. The following list as recommended by the Commission consists of projects that provide something for everyone. The projects span all age groups from toddlers to seniors as well as, several different levels of physical activity. Pat Winter moved to approve funding as presented and Grace Beggs seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously to approve funding for the following 18 grants.

A.A.U.W. – 44th Annual Used Book Sale \$3,200

Assist with the cost of storage, book transport and table rental for the 44th Annual Used Book Sale to be held on June 13, 14, and 15 at Henry Puffer School. More than 40,000 books on every topic have been donated for the sale.

D.G. Choral Society – 2002-03 Concert Season & Outreach Program \$10,000

Assist with the cost of marketing initiative for the core three-concert Oratorio Series, to provide partial compensation for venue fees involved in performing at the Tivoli Theatre, and to support the Outreach Program in healthcare/retirement facilities in Downers Grove for the 2002-03 Concert Series.

D.G. Concert Association – 2002-03 Concert Series \$10,000

Assist with the cost of advertising and rental space for its 2002-03 concert series: Artists Showcase West. The 2002-03 series will feature the following artists: The Moscow Chamber Orchestra; Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Silver Medalist of the 2001 Van Cliburn Piano Competition;

Martha Gurth, soprano from the Royal Canadian Opera in Toronto; Bartok String Quartet; and The Chicago Chamber Musicians Wind Ensemble, Chicago Symphony 1st chairs.

DG Downtown Management- Fine Arts Festival \$4,500

Assist with the cost of advertising and entertainment. This event brings families together in our downtown area for a cultural event, entertainment, and activities for children. This year this event has been expanded to a 2-day event (September 14-15, 2002). The festival will feature artists exhibiting a wide variety of fine art including oils, watercolors, drawings, sculpture, photography, woodworking, pottery, and jewelry.

DG Downtown Management- Hospitality Sunday and Downtown Downers Day \$3,200

Assist with the cost of entertainment for both of these events. Hospitality Sunday /Santa Parade is a one-day event held annually on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. This civic event is an opportunity for our community to come together in a celebration to begin the holiday season. Downtown Downers Day is a day for the community to honor all heroes from yesterday to today.

D.G. Friends of the Library – 4th Annual Storybook Character Parade \$300

Assist with the cost of postage, prizes, and marching band for the 4th Annual Storybook Character Parade to be held in September, 2002. Funding will provide a more attractive event with additional features and prizes that the Friends the Library alone are not fully able to support.

D.G. Junior Woman's Club – 4th of July Parade Float \$325

Assist with the cost of supplies in the construction of a float for the 4th of July parade.

D.G. Kiwanis Club – Easter Egg Hunt \$800

Assist with the cost of candy and balloons for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

D.G. Rotary Club – Halloween Window Painting \$1,100

Assist with the cost of refreshments, printing, and supplies for the Halloween Window Painting Event. The Halloween Window Painting event has been sponsored by the Downers Grove Rotary Club for over 30 years. Over 825 children (K through 6th grade) participated in 2001's event.

D.G.S.H.S. Mustang Band Boosters – Marching Mustang Music Bowl (NEW) \$1,000

Assist with the cost of advertising, printing, judges, and trophies. The Marching Mustang Music Bowl is a marching band competition that will be hosted by Downers Grove South High School on October 12, 2002. This event will bring 10 –12 high school marching bands and color guard from across the state to participate in the competition.

Grove Players – 2002-03 Season \$3,120

Assist with the cost of advertising and rental space for the 2002-03 Season. The Grove Players perform live stage productions three to four times a year, participate in community events

including “Heritage Festival” and parades, provide actors for Village and Chamber of Commerce special events including “Midnight Madness”, “Founders Day,” and the “Ice Festival.”

Midwest Ballet Theatre – Costumes **\$3,000**

Assist in the cost to replace costumes (tutus) in the “Snow Scene” of the annual production of *The Nutcracker*. *The Nutcracker* is presented at the Tivoli Theater the two weekends prior to Thanksgiving.

Our Town Productions – *A Christmas Carol* (NEW EVENT) **\$3,000**

Assist with the promotional costs, costumes and productions costs for *A Christmas Carol* to be performed in December, 2002. Our Town Production plans on presenting *A Christmas Carol* on an annual basis from 2002 forward.

Squires of Downers Grove – Bob Nelson Jr. Golf Tournament (NEW) **\$500**

Assist in the cost of green fees for the Bob Nelson Jr. Golf Tournament to be held on July 29, 2002 at the Downers Grove Park District Golf Course. The Squires have a players field of 96 participants (24 foursomes) between the ages of 10 to 16. Each foursome is accompanied by a senior golfer acting as a rules official and instructor. The senior golfer does not teach the mechanics of golf rather, instruction is given in golf safety, golf etiquette, sportsmanship, course care, rules, and fair play.

Vox Caelestis – 2002-03 Concert Series **\$1,420**

Assist with the cost of marketing (printing and postage) for their 2002-03 Concert Series in Downers Grove. The 2002-03 Concert Series in Downers Grove will include an outreach concert (songs for children, including educational activities) October 5, 2002 at Downers Grove Library; a holiday concert (classical and contemporary seasonal songs) December 7, 2002 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Downers Grove; and a spring concert (*Debussy Salut Printemps, Larsen Today*, this Spring, and other seasonal songs) May 3, 2002 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Downers Grove.

West Suburban Humane Society – Steps for Strays Walk-a-thon 2002 **\$4,000**

Assist in the cost of advertising for the 9th Annual Walk-a-thon. The event to be held on October 13, 2002, starts with a blessing for the animals and then the Master of Ceremony will kick off the event and lead the walkers. The event is designed to be a festival that will include canine demonstrations, canine rescue groups, and a humane education tent will be an added feature this year.

YMCA – 5th Annual Y-Games **\$1,365**

Assist with the cost of advertising, brochures, and t-shirts for all participants. The event will take place September 28, 2002. The objective of this project is to provide a minimum of 85 teens the opportunity to showcase their skating and rockclimbing skills. To increase participation this year, the Indian Boundary YMCA is rehabbing the skate park and adding a “Best Trick” competition.

YMCA – 5K Run**\$1,145**

Assist with the cost of advertising, brochures, and t-shirts for all participants, trophies and official race timing. The event will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2002. The race starts/ends at the Indian Boundary YMCA, winding through the Village of Downers Grove. Last year's 5K, "The World's Largest Run", drew 246 runners/walkers, more than twice the original projected goal of 100 runners for a first-time event.

Several other grants were determined as not meeting the criteria of the Downers Grove Community Grants Program and some of these organizations were referred to other granting agencies. The grant requests submitted totaled \$86,511 however, to stay within the grants budget of \$52,500, the Commission had to reduce funding requests of several organizations. The Commission agreed if additional funds become available later in the year the Community Grants Commission would request increased grant dollars for currently approved projects. Staff recommended 1% of budgeted grant dollars to be appropriated for administrative expenses. The Commission concurred that administrative costs would remain at 1% or \$525 of total budgeted grant dollars.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There is a need to develop a fund raising strategy. The Community Grants Program may be in competition with Village Departments, Downtown Management, and the Chamber of Commerce in seeking outside funding support. It was suggested that an interdepartmental meeting should be scheduled to explore a coordinated effort in seeking funding support. The Village will need to strategize – it doesn't want to target the same businesses or organizations in seeking financial support.

In planning for next year's grants presentation review, April 26, 2003 will be the tentative scheduled date.

V. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

