

**Village of Downers Grove
Community Grants Commission
MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY
Ante Room, Village Hall
May 5, 2003**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dave Humphreys called the Community Grants Commission Meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Members in attendance: Dave Humphreys, Chairman

Ed Bunting, Kathy Nybo, Pat Winter

Absent: Grace Beggs (recuperating from surgery)

Staff: Susan Brassfield

Visitors: None

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

The Chairman announced that at this time an opportunity would be provided for comments. Hearing none the meeting moved ahead.

II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2002 MINUTES

Since there were no additions or corrections to the Minutes of September 5, 2002, they were accepted as presented.

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

The Community Grants Commission met on Saturday, April 26, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the Committee Room to hear presentations and have a question and answer session with 25 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 Ed Bunting seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously to approve funding for the following 24 grants.

A.A.U.W. – 45th Annual Used Book Sale \$1,600

Assist with the cost of storage, book transport and table rental for the 45th Annual Used Book Sale to be held on June 12, 13, and 14 at Henry Puffer School. More than 30,000 books on every topic have been donated for the sale.

D.G. Choral Society – 2003-04 Concert Season & Outreach Program \$9,000

Assist with the cost of marketing initiatives 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 2003-04 Concert Series.

D.G. Concert Association – 2003-04 Concert Series **\$9,000**

Assist with the cost of advertising and rental space for its 2003-04 concert series: Artists Showcase West. The 2003-04 series will feature the following artists: I Musici de Montreal; Patrick Jee, cellist; Muir String Quartet, with Gilbert Kalish, pianist; Lyric Opera Center for American Artists; and Ma' A lot Woodwind Quintett.

DG Downtown Management- Fine Arts Festival **\$3,000**

Assist with the cost of entertainment. This event brings families together in our downtown area for a cultural event, entertainment, and activities for children. This year the festival will be held as a 2-day event (September 13-14, 2003). 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 **\$2,000**

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 to give the community an opportunity to come Downtown, have fun, to remind them of what their Downtown has to offer, and to get to know the business owners, both new and old.

D.G. Friends of the Library – 5th Annual Storybook Character Parade **\$250**

Assist with the cost of postage, prizes, and a marching band for the 5th Annual Storybook Character Parade to coincide with the Fine Arts Festival in September, 2003. The Storybook Character Parade is an activity to encourage children to read and then dress up as a book character and parade through the Downtown.

D.G. Historical Society – Cemetery Restoration **\$3,150**

This project supports the identification, preservation, restoration, and proper disposition of the Main Street Cemetery markers.

D.G. Junior Woman's Club – 4th of July Parade Float **\$300**

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 **\$500**

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

D.G. Noon Lion's Club- Halloween Parade **\$100**

Assist with the costs of treats and prizes for the annual Halloween Parade.

D.G. Rotary Club – Halloween Window Painting \$700

Assist with the cost of refreshments, printing, and supplies for the Halloween Window Painting Event. The Downers Grove Rotary Club has sponsored the Halloween Window Painting event for over 30 years. Over 825 children (K through 6th grade) participated in 2002's event.

**D.G.S.H.S. Mustang Band Boosters –
Marching Mustang Music Bowl \$700**

Assist with the cost of an announcer, advertising, 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 11, 2003. This event will bring 10 –12 high school marching bands and color guard from across the state to participate in the competition.

D.G. Swim and Racquet Club – 4th of July float \$300

Assist with the cost of constructing a float for the 4th of July parade

Grove Players – 2003-04 Season \$2,000

Assist with the cost of advertising and rental space for the 2003-04 Season. The Grove Players perform live stage productions three to four times a year, participate in community events including "Heritage Festival" and parades. Grove Players also provide actors for Village and Chamber of Commerce special events including "Midnight Madness" and the "Ice Festival."

Maple Hill Recreation Corporation – 4th of July Float \$300

Assist with trailer rental and the cost of supplies in constructing a float for the 4th of July parade.

Midwest Ballet Theatre – *Cinderella* \$2,700

Assist in the cost of building sets for *Cinderella* that will be presented at the Tivoli Theater on June 27-29, 2003.

New World Repertory Theatre – Performance *OFF THE MAP* \$1,200

Assist in the cost of actor salaries in the play entitled *Off The Map*, which will be presented in October and November, 2003 at the Masonic building on Curtiss. New World Repertory Theater is a new, not-for-profit corporation based in Downers Grove. New World Repertory will present to the community contemporary and classic live theater for adults and shows written and performed by children.

Our Town Productions - *A Christmas Carol* \$2,000

Assist with the promotional costs, costumes and productions costs for *A Christmas Carol* to coincide with the event Hospitality Sunday.

Squires of Downers Grove – Bob Nelson Jr. Golf Tournament **\$300**

Assist in the cost of green fees for the Bob Nelson Jr. Golf Tournament to be held on July 7, 2003 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 – 2003-04 Concert Series **\$1,000**

Assist with the cost of contractual services and marketing for their 2003-04 Concert Series in Downers Grove. The 2003-04 Concert Series will include a holiday concert on December 6, 2003, featuring Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* and a harp composition; a concert held March 14, 2004, featuring the premiere of a commissioned piece by Libby Larsen.

West Suburban Humane Society – Dog Days of Summer **\$2,000**

Assist in the cost of advertising for the 10th Annual Steps for Strays Walk-a-thon. The event to be held on September 28, 2003, 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 agility teams.

West Towns Chorus – 2003 West Towns Chorus Christmas Show **\$600**

Assist in bus rental costs for underprivileged and handicapped individuals in Downers Grove and surrounding communities to attend the West Towns Chorus Christmas Show at Tivoli Theatre on December 12, 2003. West Towns Chorus holds the title of being an International Gold Medal Championship Chorus – the highest competition performance honor any barbershop chorus can achieve.

YMCA – 6th Annual Y-Games **\$900**

Assist with the cost of advertising, brochures, and t-shirts for all participants. The event will take place September 27, 2003. The objective of this project is to provide a minimum of 97 youths ages 8-17 the opportunity to showcase their skating and rock climbing skills. With the addition of new ramps and resurfacing of the blacktop, it will serve to attract a larger number of competitors to the 2003 competition.

YMCA – 5K Run **\$900**

Assist with the cost of advertising, brochures, t-shirts for all participants, trophies, and official race timing. The event will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2003. 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.

One grant was determined as not meeting the criteria of the Downers Grove Community Grants Program. The grant requests submitted totaled \$103,304; however, to stay within the grants budget of \$45,020 the Commission had to reduce funding requests of all 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 \$520 of budgeted grant dollars to be appropriated for administrative expenses.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Staff must emphasize to the organizations to spend grant money and on time. The Commission must be proactive with unspent grant funds. A review will be performed of all grant recipients and if any organization doesn't spend their entire grant, these funds would then be reappropriated to another organization as additional grant funding.

It was suggested that the Commission meet with Steve Rockwell, Director of Economic Development to discuss approaching donors. Since the Commission was successful in receiving \$4,000 in donations from local businesses in the first letter writing campaign, staff will send similar grant donation request letters again this year. Funding received as part of the second letter writing campaign will be applied toward available grant funding in FY04/05.

In planning for next year's grants presentation review, April 24, 2004 will be the tentative scheduled date. The Commission will tentatively schedule Monday, May 3, 2004 at 10:00 am to evaluate applications and make recommendations.

V. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:20am.

