

**Village of Downers Grove  
Community Grants Commission  
MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY  
Ante Room, Village Hall  
May 3, 2004**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dave Humphreys called the Community Grants Commission Meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.  
Members in attendance: Dave Humphreys, Chairman  
Ed Bunting, Kathy Nybo, Peggy Barrett, Renata Allelujka  
Absent: Grace Beggs, Pat Winter  
Staff: Susan Brassfield  
Visitors: None.

**II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 5, 2003 MINUTES**

Since there were no additions or corrections to the Minutes of November 5, 2003 they were accepted as presented.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

The budget of \$52,063 has been approved; it was a long process that started last fall. The grant program has been traditionally a cultural arts grants program. This past year, as part of our letter writing campaign, we received \$2,000 in donations that were incorporated into this year's budget. We as a commission are responsible for fund raising. When Community Grants became a full-fledged commission the wording under our charter included the concept of raising funds. Dave Humphreys presented a handout detailing the history as to how we were spending our grant funds for FY1998-1999 through 2003-04. The spreadsheet was broken down by three categories: Cultural Arts, Events/Sports/Floats, and Other. The spreadsheet showed the percentage of the dollar amounts appropriated to the three categories.

**GRANT APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Community Grants Commission met on Saturday, April 24, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. in the Committee Room to hear presentations and have a question and answer session with 22 grant applicants.

Criteria discussed in evaluating grants:

Three theatre groups submitted grant proposals; however, each has its own place. All organizations received less funding last year compared to previous years' funding levels because the overall Community Grants budget was reduced. This year we hope to restore grant funding to the level prior to the FY03-04 funding reduction. Just like other parts of community culture the Village needs to support the artistic community; infrastructure is important to the community. We have to be responsive to the needs of the culture climate. We also need to evaluate each organization and make a determination that if they didn't receive Community Grants funding would their event take place. Dave Humphreys presented a brief history of the Community Grants program. Mr. Humphreys stated that the Cummings McNulty report recommended that a

percentage of the Hotel Motel Tax be designated toward Community Grants. Grant applications must meet the scope of the grants program.

The following grants are not in the order as discussed in the meeting; funding recommendations have been categorized by type of activity in order to present like items together.

**Cultural activity:**

**A.A.U.W. – 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Used Book Sale \$2,000**

Assist with the cost of storage, book transport and table rental for the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Used Book Sale to be held on June 10, 11, and 12 at Henry Puffer School. More than 30,000 books on every topic have been donated for the sale. This unique cultural event attracts many visitors from several states.

**D.G. Choral Society – 2004-05 Concert Season & Outreach Program \$10,000**

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 2004-05 Concert Series. This project will bring new singers and audience members into Downers Grove from surrounding communities. Moreover, this project contributes to a positive image of the Village of Downers Grove by presenting high-quality performances of the great choral masterworks.

**D.G. Concert Association – 2004-05 Concert Series \$10,000**

Assist with the cost of advertising for its 2004-05 concert series: Artists Showcase West. The 2004-05 series will feature the following artists: Lucerne Festival Strings (Chamber Orchestra), Ingrid Marsoner (Pianist from Austria), Amsterdam Loeki Stardust Quarter (Recorders), Vienna Piano Trio, and Debussy Trio (Harp, Flute and Viola). Live classical music performances of world renowned professionals enhance the image of the Village as an attractive and fulfilling place to live, visit, and conduct business. The purpose of this organization is to promote and encourage public interest in the performing arts and this purpose is achieved by presenting to the public, at a reasonable cost, a program of professional artists of international stature.

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

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 September 25, 2004. This event will bring 10 –17 high school marching bands and color guard from across the state to participate in the competition. This year's event will also include one University band from ISU. This event will create a musical festival atmosphere that will be welcoming to all factions of the community. This event will draw many out-of-town visitors.

**Grove Players – 2004-05 Season \$3,000**

Assist with the cost of advertising and rental space for the 2004-05 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.” All productions bring theatre-goers into the downtown area. This organization offers live theatre productions at a reasonable price to the residents of Downers Grove and the surrounding communities.

**Midwest Ballet Theatre – *Peter Pan***

**\$3,200**

Assist with the cost of costumes, advertising, rental fees, and props for *Peter Pan* that will be presented at the Tivoli Theater on June 25-27, 2004. Midwest Ballet Theatre’s annual fairy tale ballets are performed during Heritage Festival and offers high quality performances for free. These performances have introduced the art of classical ballet to many children in our community and this organization is a vital part of the growing arts in the western suburbs.

**New World Repertory Theatre – Performance *Wait Until Dark***

**\$3,000**

Assist with rental costs and publicity for the play entitled *Wait Until Dark*, which will be presented in October and November, 2004 at the Masonic building on Curtiss. New World Repertory Theater is a relatively 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 performed by children. This project will provide the people of Downers Grove with a recreational, cultural, and artistic resource that will inspire community participation. New World Repertory will provide Downers Grove with low cost, high-quality live theater for adults, and offer creative opportunities for the children of the community. A theater will also bring people from the surrounding suburbs into downtown Downers Grove.

**Our Town Productions - *A Christmas Carol***

**\$3,000**

Assist with the promotional costs, costumes and productions costs for *A Christmas Carol*. The goals of Our Town Productions are to provide the community of Downers Grove with a professional performing arts company that reaches a multi-generation audience and to contribute to the image of the Village of Downers Grove as a community that supports and celebrates the arts.

**Vox Caelestis – 2004-05 Concert Series**

**\$1,400**

Assist with the cost of contractual services and marketing for their 2004-05 Concert Series in Downers Grove. The 2004-05 Concert Series will include a holiday concert on December 4, 2004, *A Child Is Born*; and a concert held March 12, 2005, *Sing A New Song* (World Premieres of winning compositions from the first Illinois Composers’ Competition). These concerts will enhance Downers Grove’s reputation as a community where the arts flourish. The mission of Vox Caelestis is to perform sacred and secular musical works for women’s chorus at the highest artistic level, in order to enrich the communities it serves.

**West Towns Chorus – 2004 West Towns Chorus Christmas Show**

**\$1,200**

Assist with rental, stage, and advertising costs for the Christmas Show at the Tivoli Theatre for three performances held December 10-11, 2004. These shows bring high quality, professional entertainment to downtown Downers Grove.

**Recreational activity:****D.G. Kiwanis Club – Easter Egg Hunt \$600**

Assist with the cost of candy and balloons for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The event will be held in Fishel Park, which will draw people to Downtown Downers Grove.

**D.G. Rotary Club – Halloween Window Painting \$1,000**

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 800 children (K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade) participated in 2003's event. In addition to providing a forum for family involvement and bringing families downtown, the Club requests voluntary contributions of canned food items which are given to F.I.S.H.

**Squires of Downers Grove – Bob Nelson Jr. Golf Tournament \$400**

Assist in the cost of green fees for the Bob Nelson Jr. Golf Tournament to be held on July 12, 2004 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. This event will attract local youth to play golf at the Downers Grove Park District Golf Course.

**West Suburban Humane Society – “Barkapalooza” Pet Expo & Walk \$2,000**

Assist in the cost of advertising for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Barkapalooza Pet Expo & Walk (formally known as STEPS FOR STRAYS). The event to be held on September 26, 2004, starts with a blessing for the animals and then the Master of Ceremony will kick off the Expo and lead the walkers. The objectives of this event are to make it more of a Downers Grove community event, and to have greater involvement of children and families.

**YMCA – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Y-Games \$1,200**

Assist with the cost of advertising, brochures, and t-shirts for all participants. The event will take place September 25, 2004. The objective of this project is to provide a minimum of 85 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 2004 competition. Y-Games delivers an energetic, fun-filled outlet for skaters and climbers alike, fulfilling the mission of the Grants Program to provide recreational, community-oriented activities for Village residents. Additionally, this event draws out-of-town competitors to the Village. There are limited competitions for teens in these particular sports and Y-Games provides an exciting competition judged by expert skaters.

**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 Sunday, June 6, 2004. The race starts/ends at the Indian Boundary YMCA, winding through the Village of Downers Grove and introducing out-of-towners to the beauty of our Village. Last year's 5K, “The World's Largest Run”, drew nearly

200 runners/walkers. Participants have the option to run or walk, and this event is open to all age groups- from tots to seniors.

**Parades:**

**DG Downtown Management-  
Hospitality Sunday Santa Parade** **\$2,500**

Assist with the cost of advertising for the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Hospitality Sunday /Santa Parade, a one-day event held annually on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. The highlight of the day is the Santa Parade, which brings Santa and Mrs. Claus to town for the season. Children are invited to ride with Santa and Mrs. Claus and Ronald McDonald and Hamburgler. This civic event is an opportunity for our community to come together in a celebration to begin the holiday season.

**D.G. Friends of the Library – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Storybook Character Parade** **\$500**

Assist with the cost of advertising, books as prizes, and a marching band for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Storybook Character Parade that will be held to coincide with the Fine Arts Festival in September, 2004. 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. The parade publicizes the D.G. Public Library Children's Summer Reading Program and encourages the use of the Downers Grove Library -all of which draw people downtown.

**D.G. Junior Woman's Club – 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Float** **\$400**

Assist with the cost of supplies in the construction of a float for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. By supporting the construction of a float, it will allow the Downers Grove 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade to continue as one of the best parades in the western suburbs.

**Maple Hill Recreation Corporation – 4<sup>th</sup> of July Float** **\$400**

Assist with trailer rental and the cost of supplies in constructing a float for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. The float will add value to the event by showing additional participation and support for our community.

**Civic activity:**

**D.G. Historical Society – Main Street Cemetery Restoration** **\$3,840**

Since 2001, the Downers Grove Historical Society has worked to repair broken monuments, fix crumbling bases of the larger monuments, and replace deteriorated headstones, in order to preserve the cemetery and its history. The focus now is community outreach and this will be in the form of an informational kiosk. This project will support Phase 3 of the Main Street Cemetery Restoration Project. Phase 3 consists of: repair and replacement of monument bases and headstones, the purchase of four new headstones, construction of an informational kiosk, and the cost of printing informational kiosk booklets.

Three grant requests were determined as not meeting the criteria or scope of the Downers Grove Community Grants Program.

The grant requests submitted totaled \$113,203; however, to stay within the grants budget of \$52,063 the Commission had to reduce funding requests. Staff recommended \$523 of budgeted grant dollars to be appropriated for administrative expenses.

The Commission will set forth as policy that when a Community Grants Commission member also serves on the Board of Officers of an organization that submits a grant application, that member will abstain from voting approval for the organization to which he or she serves as an officer.

Dave Humphreys set the motion to approve all grants discussed except the Marching Mustang Music Bowl. Kathy Nybo made the motion to approve the group we discussed and to approve the total. Ed Bunting seconded the motion. Motion passed all in favor. A second motion was set to approve the Marching Mustang Music Bowl. Peggy Barrett made a motion to approve \$1,000 for the Marching Mustang Music Bowl as presented. Ed Bunting seconded the motion. Renata Alleljka abstained her vote; motion passed, all other members were in favor.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

Recommendations made by the Community Grants Commission will be on the May 25<sup>th</sup> Workshop Agenda with Council vote on June 1, 2004.

The Commission will schedule a meeting in the fall (October 6, 2004) to discuss the solicitation of donations.

In planning for next year's grants presentation review, April 30, 2005 will be the tentative scheduled date. The Commission will tentatively schedule Monday, May 9, 2005 at 10:00 am to evaluate applications and make recommendations. A second date of May 11, 2005, will be used if recommendations can't be finalized on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

This year again, we have new commission members [3]. Martin Tully has been our Council Liaison.

#### **V. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

