



CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE CIVIC GRANTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes March 18, 2025

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm. Members present: Ericka Lang, Melissa Ellis, Aleta Schilling, Ald. David Bartoshevich, and Dave Kieck (arrived 5:05 pm).

2. Approval of May 14, 2024 minutes.

Ellis moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Schilling. Vote to approve 4-0.

3. Update on 2024 Bucyrus Civic Grant recipient projects.

Lang reviewed the five approved grants from May 2024. The Friends of Mill Pond returned the grant as the proposed information kiosk at Mill Pond did not receive final approval from Milwaukee County Parks. The Friends of South Milwaukee Library returned unspent funds and the city has not received financial reports of grant expenditures at this time, which are due in June. Grant recipients have through May 31, 2025 to utilize funds for approved projects.

4. Consideration to approve eligible local nonprofit requests to apply for 2025 Bucyrus Civic Grant funding.

Lang stated the city received twelve Letters of Interest from nonprofits and government agencies, totaling \$121,930. A reminder that \$50,000 is the annual budgeted Bucyrus grant fund total.

Commissioners discussed each submission to determine eligibility.

- Friends of the South Milwaukee Public Library requested \$21,380 for various improvements, to add young adult video equipment, support author visits and book supplies, and improve the library entrance. Overall, there was a consensus that all projects are eligible, needing clarification on author visits.
- Friends of Grant Park requested \$1,000 for operational expenses of the annual art fair, that is not an eligible expense.
- South Milwaukee Fire Department with Warm Up South Milwaukee nonprofit, requested \$20,000 for assisting with implementation of the new Mobility Integrated Healthcare Program in the city. The program is receiving grant funding in 2025 and therefore, not eligible for funds in this grant cycle.
- Growing South Milwaukee requested \$8,000 to construct a storage shed at the community gardens lot. The project is eligible, confirming garden plots may be rented by any community members.
- City of South Milwaukee Celebrations Committee requested \$5,000 for creating a new music series in the downtown. Overall, commissioners agreed aspects of a new event is eligible.
- Human Concerns requested \$10,000 to hire a professional grant writer to identify and write grants. Professional consultant fees are eligible for services that create, improve, or expand an organizations mission.

- Bucyrus Museum requested \$4,800 for two AED devices in the building. Commissioners agreed the new equipment is eligible, further supported by the facilities large number of users.
- Gearbox Labs requested \$2,500 for offering two STEM workshops with kits. With the information provided, it appears the project may be eligible. The organization will be invited to apply and clarify who may participate and partnership with the school district.
- South Milwaukee Heritage Days Parade requested \$2,250 to create a float and expenses for a band to commemorate Chet Grobschmit, the late and former city mayor. Commissioners agreed the expenses do not meet eligibility criteria and do not have the authority to grant exceptions. All recognize the importance to honor the Grobschmit and recommended the organization reach out to the council for possible other funding through the Bucyrus Foundation Fund balance.
- MARM Farm Education and Conservation Center requested \$30,000 for converting a shipping container into a hydroponic garden and cover a part time manager. Commissioners noted the South Milwaukee School district is not eligible for funds and agreed the location on school grounds, use by public school students, and direct support of an individual, are several disqualifying items.
- Scouting America requested \$10,000 to increase participation of underserved youth, providing financial support for various scout expenses and hire program aids. Commissioners agreed the financials support is a form of sponsorship and direct wages are both ineligible.
- South Milwaukee Historical Society requested \$7,000 for a document scanner, oversized scanner and specialty storage bins. Commissioners discussed if acid-free storage bins are maintenance or considered an improvement and confirmation of 2024 equipment purchases. It was agreed to have them apply for the grant.

Ellis and Schilling noted 2024 unspent funds could be rolled into 2025 grants.

Lang will contact each organization relaying determinations and inviting nine of the organizations to apply, due April 30th, and present in May at the following civic commission meeting.

5. Schedule next meeting.

A meeting is scheduled Wednesday May 7th at 5:30 pm to hear presentations of grant applicants and determine awards.

6. Adjourn.

Kieck moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 pm, seconded by Bartoshevich. Vote 5-0.

Recorded by,

Ericka Lang
Economic Development Manager