

**DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 21, 2025 - 4:30 p.m.
5555 Perimeter Drive
Council Chamber**

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Keeler called the Finance Committee meeting of October 21, 2025 to order at 4:30 p.m.

Committee members present: Mr. Keeler (Chair), Vice Mayor Alutto and Mr. Reiner.

Staff members present: Ms. Goliver, Ms. LeRoy, Ms. Gischel, Ms. Weisenauer, Mr. Rubino, Mr. Jiang, Ms. Hunter, Ms. Blake.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Keeler moved to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2025 Finance Committee meeting. Vice Mayor Alutto seconded the motion.

The motion passed by the following vote: Mr. Reiner, yes; Vice Mayor Alutto, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes.

REVIEW OF THE 2026 HOTEL-MOTEL TAX GRANT APPLICATIONS

Ms. Goliver opened the discussion by providing administrative guidance for the evening's proceedings. She explained that Chair Keeler would call each organization forward to present their grant applications, with each group having approximately three minutes to speak and answer questions about their events.

Historic Dublin Business Association – Events: Time Trek, St. Paddy's Day Crawl, Bunny Hop, Play Nine, Summer Music Series, Barks and Brews, Ole Time Dublin Day, Historic Halloween, Say Thank You, Holly Days and Ugly Sweater Crawl

Representative: Rick Gerber

Request: \$ 50,000

Mr. Gerber was present for any questions. He noted that his organization had invested considerable time in preparing their applications and deferred to the Committee for any questions. The presentation was brief, with no questions from committee members.

Japan-America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO) – Japan FestOH!

Representative: Yuu Matsushima, Noriko Mills

Request: \$18,700

Ms. Matsushima presented alongside Executive Director Noriko Mills, sharing plans for Japan Festival 2026 scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2026, at Riverside Crossing

Park. This would mark the festival's eighth year celebrating Japanese culture and fostering connections between Japanese and American communities. The 2025 festival attracted over 3,500 attendees with performances, workshops, demonstrations, and activities for all ages.

For 2026, JASCO planned to expand from a half-day to a full-day event. Ms. Matsushima emphasized Dublin as the perfect home for this event, noting it honors Japanese communities while providing Central Ohio residents opportunities to experience Japanese traditions. The festival would feature local favorites like Dublin Taiko and performances from across the region, with continued partnerships with local businesses and restaurants to support Dublin's economy.

Mr. Reiner shared a compelling anecdote about his experience in Japan competing for a \$2 billion business opportunity. He recounted how mentioning the Obon Festival during a visit to Japan seemed to delight the Honda vice president. They were surprised that Dublin hosted such a festival, and Mr. Reiner believed this cultural connection helps to strengthen partnerships. He emphasized the importance of maintaining this cultural relationship, noting Dublin has over 20 Japanese companies employing many residents.

Dublin Education Foundation – Elevate Education

Representative: Melissa Bogner and Deb Papesh

Request: \$60,000

Ms. Bogner and Ms. Papesh presented on behalf of the Dublin Education Foundation (DEF), located at 5175 Emerald Parkway. They expressed gratitude for the City's support, noting these grants enable events that have positively impacted thousands of residents. The organization was planning its third annual Elevate Education event at The Exchange, hosting over 300 guests to connect grant-recipient teachers with potential business supporters and individuals.

Ms. Papesh reflected on the lasting impact of inspirational teachers and coaches, explaining that a DEF grant brings learning to life beyond the day of learning and inspires learners throughout their entire lives. The Elevate event fundraising directly supports these classroom grants in Dublin City Schools.

Ms. Bogner emphasized that schools are primary drivers for attracting new businesses and residents while retaining long-time community members. She noted over 200 local businesses supported their previous event, with similar partnership levels expected for the upcoming event. The organization maintains a frugal approach to spending, leveraging business partnerships throughout the community. She highlighted that Dublin schools serve over 100 spoken languages and address the whole child, including emotional learning to build resilience and provide students with a global perspective for future workforce development.

When asked about financial support levels, Ms. Bogner reported the silent auction raised approximately \$18,000 from 120 business donations. Additional support came through in-kind services like donated videography and photography. The event would cost approximately \$53,000, with over \$11,000 coming from community partners. Their goal

was to secure \$60,000 in sponsorships, including their first-ever \$10,000 sponsor who continues supporting the community through multiple avenues.

Mr. Keeler commended their approach to sustainability, noting that one goal of the bed tax grant program is to help organizations launch and then find ways to fund their own operations. He praised their success in finding donors and partnering with corporations as a model others could learn from.

Dublin Soccer League – Dublin Charity Cup

Representative: Dominique Hoecherl, Tournament Director

Request: \$13,665

Ms. Hoecherl, tournament director for the Dublin Charity Cup, presented about the event she has directed for five years. The 2026 tournament would mark its 36th year. The event is unique in making significant contributions to local charities, with the board of directors meeting annually to determine fund allocation. Since inception, the tournament has donated close to \$885,000 to charities.

The 2025 event successfully hosted close to 150 teams at Darree Fields over two days. The organization plans to meet in November to determine charitable donations, expecting to contribute approximately \$30,000 this year. Ms. Hoecherl explained that the bed tax grant helps offset costs, allowing funds to go directly back into the community. She praised the 2025 event conditions, noting the fields were excellent after summer rest and the weather was "probably the least hot it has ever been" for the tournament. The event concluded with attendees staying to tailgate and watch OSU beat Texas.

Dublin Special Olympics - Shamrock Games

Representative: Kate Newman

Request: \$1,700

Ms. Newman from Dublin Special Olympics presented plans for the twelfth annual Shamrock Games in spring 2026, expecting approximately 400 athletes. The games feature track and field events ranging from 25-meter races to 3,000-meter races, plus field events including shot put, long jump, softball throw, and mini javelin. Additional competitions include singles tennis and their newer strongman competition for power lifters. The grant request would help cover lunch costs for participants.

When Mr. Reiner asked about the event's scope, Ms. Newman confirmed Dublin hosts the event and invites delegations from surrounding organizations. They typically have 12-15 delegations from Central Ohio, generally within a 1.5-hour radius.

The Glitter Guild

Representative: Kate Giha and Jen Lynch

Request: \$5,000

Ms. Giha presented with co-founder Jen Lynch on behalf of The Glitter Guild, a 100% volunteer-run organization supporting local families impacted by cancer. Ms. Giha explained that cancer diagnoses often force families to reschedule summer vacations, replacing zoo trips with appointments and treatments. The organization works to be the joy between hope and healing for these families.

One major program is their annual summer camp during the first week of August, providing fun-filled activities for affected families. This year's camp hosted 25 campers ages 2-13. Activities included a scavenger hunt through historic Dublin with stops at local businesses, lunch at Dublin Village Tavern, and fun at the Dublin Historical Society. Campers visited businesses like Pinot's Palette and Rock & Jump, concluding with a Smurf-themed movie day at AMC Dublin. Special visitors included Washington Township Fire Department, Glenda the Witch, and Darth Vader.

Ms. Giha emphasized that Glitter Camp brings together children facing cancer's impact and their families, allowing them a week of normal fun during uncertain times. As a relatively young nonprofit, they sought to raise awareness and connect with community members who know families needing support. The organization maintains almost 200 volunteers in their database who provide weekly meals, laundry services, and Saturday sweet treat deliveries to supported families. When asked about scope, Ms. Giha confirmed 90% of this year's campers attended Dublin City Schools, with expansion into surrounding areas including Delaware, Olentangy, and Hilliard school districts as their volunteer base grows.

Dublin Arts Council

Representative: Merijn van der Heijden and Eva Morgan
Request: \$25,000

Ms. van der Heijden, Executive Director, and Eva Morgan, Director of Public Practice, presented their community-curated series of temporary public art projects. Ms. van der Heijden explained they launched their public art board in spring, aligned with the 2021 City of Dublin Public Art Master Plan. They proposed three temporary small-scale public art exhibitions for 2026 focusing on community engagement, accessibility, and social resilience.

The first project, "Dwelling: Snail's Journey," would see the return of snails to community-selected sites with community member input. The second involves library plaza activation through an open call for artwork in daily-use public spaces, reflecting joy and library connections. The third project would activate the winter market with light-based sensory public art, enhancing seasonal festivities while fostering cultural pride and connection.

Mr. Reiner congratulated them on their recent exhibit featuring an award-winning artist. He praised the Dublin Arts Council for consistently delivering interesting cultural experiences.

Arthritis Foundation – Classic Auto Show and Cruise-in

Representatives: Jeff Larger, Event Co-Chair

Request: \$19,500

Mr. Larger was joined by new co-chair Todd Vesely and Executive Director Christopher Haverlock. This would be the 42nd show at Metro Place (43rd overall). The event brings participants from 23 different states and Canadian provinces, with approximately 1,000 cars shown during a three-day event. For 2026, they planned to move to a two-day format with changes to increase Friday participation.

Mr. Larger highlighted efforts to attract national car clubs, with the Buick Club officially signed for 2027 along with the National Woody Club. These clubs bring attendees from across the country who fill local hotels. The Doubletree has particularly enjoyed hosting the Porsche 928 club, which brings members nationwide for special "show within a show" events.

Mr. Vesely emphasized their committee's focus on attracting younger demographics to classic car events. They utilize subcommittees and the show's framework to host national events, increasing attendance at Metro Place. Results from efforts begun years ago were now materializing. The Friday enhancement would feature an '80s and '90s themed show within the show, similar to events in Dallas and Tampa. The team spent considerable time visiting Bridge Park businesses to raise awareness about the July event, with many businesses reporting increased traffic and growing sponsorship interest from Dublin community businesses.

Club Ohio Soccer – Nike Challenge Cup

Representative: Costa Kalorides, Managing Director

Request: \$14,000

Costa Kalorides, Managing Director and Event Director for Club Ohio Soccer, thanked Dublin for hosting their Nike Challenge Cup for 20-25 years. The April event brings approximately 400 teams, creating a great experience for participants. Mr. Kalorides, involved since 2004, expressed appreciation for the growth of both the tournament and Dublin, noting visitors are thrilled to visit the City of Dublin. He thanked the Committee for their grant consideration and praised the excellent working relationship developed over two decades.

Columbus Chinese Academy

Representative: Yun Wen Wang and Anna Lin

Request: \$3,500

Ms. Wang and Ms. Lin represented Columbus Chinese Academy, a nonprofit founded in 1973 offering Mandarin classes for adults and children with focus on Taiwanese Chinese language and culture. They have organized their Lunar New Year celebration for nearly 20 years and were excited to return to the Dublin Recreation Center, welcoming more attendees in the larger facility.

The event features night market-style games, live performances including traditional dance and student showcases, and hands-on cultural activities like calligraphy and red

envelope making. Ms. Wang emphasized this provides opportunities for the community to actively experience the culture, with goals of sharing Lunar New Year traditions through fun, educational, and welcoming cultural experiences. The event would utilize both the Community Hall and Abbey Theater at the Recreation Center.

Crawford Hoying Foundation – The Dublin Market and Fore!Fest

Representative: Lindsay Goldsmith

Request: \$40,000

Ms. Goldsmith presented on both the Dublin Market and Fore!Fest. The Dublin Market, occurring every Saturday throughout summer, brings local farmers, artisans, bakers, and makers to the Dublin community. Growing to include over 150 vendors, it brings thousands of visitors to downtown Dublin each Saturday. All proceeds and sponsorship dollars support the Crawford Hoying Foundation's causes for underserved youth in the community. Ms. Goldsmith noted Saturdays during the market generate the highest sales revenue for Bridge Park tenants.

When Mr. Reiner asked about the foundation's specifics, Ms. Goldsmith explained Bob and Brent Crawford wanted to give back locally, with all dollars staying in the community for youth programs. Different programs benefit each year through committee selection. The Dublin Market generates approximately \$30,000 per event.

Fore!Fest, in partnership with the Memorial Tournament and City of Dublin assistance, serves as the tournament's official after-party. Running since 2018 as a signature Dublin event, it continues growing annually. With 2026 marking the Memorial Tournament's 50th anniversary, they plan to expand event boundaries, introduce new activations, and include more businesses and commercial tenants. Like the market, Fore!Fest proceeds benefit the Crawford Hoying Foundation and partner charities, contributing another \$30,000 annually.

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation – Take Steps Walk

Representative: Carmel Elmer

Request: \$3,515

Ms. Elmer, from the foundation's Worthington office at 6797 North High Street, presented on their Take Steps Walk. The 2026 event would mark the tenth-year hosting at Dublin's Coffman Park Pavilion. The foundation has seen incredible growth, doubling participants since 2023 to reach 800 participants this year.

The organization serves individuals with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis - chronic diseases without cures. The Take Steps Walk operates as a peer-to-peer fundraising event, with 70% of funding from volunteer fundraisers who gather family and friends to participate. Only 30% comes from sponsorships. Partners include Ohio Health, Ohio Gastroenterology Group, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, and Nationwide Children's Hospital.

The event serves Central Ohio and surrounding areas, including Southeast Ohio. This year's participants represented over 60 unique zip codes, with attendees from New

Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Texas, Michigan, Washington D.C., and Wisconsin. Ms. Elmer highlighted their partnership with Dublin, including links on their website encouraging visitors to stay in Dublin hotels and visit local businesses. She specifically thanked Ms. Gischel for occasionally helping transport tables and equipment, emphasizing appreciation for the City's partnership.

Mr. Reiner thanked them for including hotel links, noting this helps with tax revenue.

Rotary Club Dublin AM – Dublin AM Rotary Classic Car Show

Representative: Lou Charabee, Event Chair

Request: \$4,019

Mr. Charabee, chairperson for the classic car show, presented plans for the eighth annual event held in Dublin's Historic District. The seventh show on August 31st succeeded with great weather and 114 registered vehicles. Estimating spectator attendance proves difficult since they do not charge admission except for car registration fees.

The eighth annual show is planned for September 6, 2026, on Labor Day weekend. As a 501(c)(3) organization, funds raised support the local food pantry, high school scholarships, adopt-a-family events, Dublin Community Bands, Miracle League, and the Interact Club for high school Rotary students. Mr. Charabee thanked the City for five consecutive years of hotel/motel tax grant support and expressed hope for continued assistance.

Mr. Reiner complimented the variety of vehicles present each year.

Dublin Historical Society – Dublin Historical Society Museum and Archives

Representative: Michael Jewell, President, Katie Guehl, Vice President and Clayton Rose, Treasurer

Request: \$60,000

Mr. Jewell, President of Dublin Historical Society, began his presentation by celebrating their first anniversary the previous weekend, marking a successful year with over 6,470 visitors and tour groups. Remarkably, visitors came from 43 different states and 24 different countries, demonstrating the foot traffic in the historic district. Twenty percent of visitors came from outside Ohio.

The society maintains free admission, adding value for street visitors, with donations reflecting visitor appreciation. For 2026, they plan to continue focusing on programming, particularly for Dublin City Schools' third graders. The museum provides tours, programming, and Dublin history education, including a new scavenger hunt children enjoy. They have expanded operations to include the Davis Cabin near the library, and plan to continue that program alongside the Coffman Homestead and walking tours.

Their Second Sunday Speaker Series (SSSS) has grown so successful they have moved to the library due to attendance. The last event drew 82 people. They have partnered

with Dublin Branch Columbus Public Library to host all 2026 events and will contribute to Dublin's America 250 efforts through the speaker series.

Following the City Manager's advocacy, all new City employees will be onboarded starting next year, providing education and training on Dublin's history regardless of the employees' origins. Mr. Jewell identified rent and utilities as their biggest challenges since they do not own the property, with donations covering these expenses. He expressed pride in creating increased South High Street traffic while emphasizing the need for continued funding to remain viable.

Mr. Reiner referenced previous discussions about evening historic liquor tours as a potential fundraiser. Mr. Jewell confirmed discussions with Visit Dublin about opportunities for 2026, noting new businesses like the apothecary and wine establishment would enhance such events. He envisioned collaboration with HDBA, spreading benefits while increasing South High Street traffic. Mr. Reiner suggested studying the Ohio Historical Society's successful model for similar programs.

Dublin Jerome High School Senior Class – Homecoming Parade

Representative: Diane Murphy

Request: \$1,300

Ms. Murphy, senior class adviser at Jerome, presented on their homecoming parade running for about 20 years. Starting small, the event now fills both street sides from the Avery Road roundabout to Highland. It has become a magnificent community and school collaboration, including Indian Run Methodist Church for lineup logistics.

Ms. Murphy described increasing community attendance. She expressed appreciation for City support in closing streets and roundabouts, which enables the event's success.

Dublin United Soccer Club – Dublin United Champions Cup

Representative: Ken McMahon

Request: \$7,530

Mr. McMahon appeared with Rob Burda, who was replacing long-time treasurer Chuck Stevens. Mr. McMahon reported they are in their fifteenth or sixteenth year using all of Darree Fields. They eagerly anticipate using Soccer First once available.

They could have accommodated 300 teams with more space. Mr. McMahon praised field conditions.

When asked about duration of City support, Mr. McMahon confirmed their first tournament was 15-16 years ago, starting with 60-80 teams without requesting assistance. During COVID, they were the first fall tournament when other organizations canceled due to out-of-town teams. Despite being limited to one game daily over two weekends, they still hosted over 200 teams and have maintained 200-255 teams annually since.

Regarding out-of-town participation, they attract 40-80 teams from outside Dublin. They market through GotSport, which most tournaments use. While the previous weekend's tournament attracts higher-level teams that travel more, Dublin United fills a niche with 50 teams of mostly Dublin residents (about two-thirds after school/city reclassification). Their teams are not necessarily top-level but include groups like parent-coached teams from Westlake. Space constraints prevent accommodating more interested clubs, but Soccer First would enable significant expansion.

Dublin Scioto Lacrosse Boosters – Ohio Middle School Lacrosse State Tournament

Representative: Tom Johnson, Treasurer
Request: \$12,000

Mr. Johnson, new treasurer for the Dublin Scioto Lacrosse Boosters, sought funds to help defray costs for hosting their annual Ohio Boys Middle School State Lacrosse Tournament. Since the Ohio High School Athletic Association does not sponsor middle school championships, the Ohio Middle School Lacrosse Association was formed in the mid-1990s to organize tournaments.

After various state locations initially, Dublin Scioto and Davis Middle Schools took over hosting in 1998 and have continued since. Starting with about 8 teams, the tournament now hosts 80-90 teams depending on field availability. Teams come statewide, with those outside Central Ohio using Dublin hotels. They estimate 8,000-10,000 attendees depending on weather, with good weather in the past year bringing more people.

The tournament serves as the primary fundraiser for Dublin Scioto boys' and girls' teams and Davis Middle School lacrosse teams, providing equipment, gear, jackets, and backpacks enabling many students to play who otherwise could not afford it. Grant funds would specifically help defray costs for renting Emerald Fields (enabling more teams and revenue), police support for safety, utilities, dumpsters, and tent rentals at the entrance for concessions, t-shirt sales, and check-in.

Dublin Youth Athletics – Wayne Williams Memorial Baseball Tournament

Representative: Justin Baker, Director of Travel Baseball for Dublin Youth Athletics (DYA) and Scott Kilgren, Athletic Director
Request: \$21,000

Mr. Baker, Director of Travel Baseball, and Scott Kilgren, Athletic Director at DYA, presented on the Wayne Williams Memorial Tournament. Mr. Baker, who played in the tournament as a child, emphasized its personal importance. The baseball tournament has run in Dublin for 23 years, covering ages 7U-14U over Memorial Day weekend's three days. This would be Mr. Baker's third year directing.

In 2025, they hosted 133 teams, up from 128 in 2024 and 110-115 in previous years. Out-of-town participation is a major focus for bringing additional competition. About 25% of teams come from beyond 75 miles and must stay in Dublin hotels. They filled 366 hotel rooms last year, up from 14-15% in 2022-2023. Mr. Baker aims to continue

attracting teams from outside 75 miles to maintain the tournament's position as one of the top tournaments in the Midwest.

When Mr. Reiner expressed surprise at Dublin's baseball diamond capacity, Mr. Baker confirmed they use Emerald, Darree, Avery, and spill over to high school softball fields and middle schools for younger ages. They have sold out the past two years with more demand than supply capacity.

Federation of Asian Indian Association (FIA) of Central Ohio – Diwali Festival

Representative: Sriram Menneni, President

Request: \$14,380

Mr. Menneni, President, thanked Dublin for sponsoring this year's Diwali festival. Despite uncertainty as a first-year event, it was a success with almost 2,000 attendees at Coffman Pavilion with fireworks at the south end.

Mr. Menneni shared that Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes planned a 30-minute appearance but stayed all 3.5 hours due to the overwhelming response and opportunity to meet Dublin residents. Attendees loved meeting the Mayor, taking pictures, and she enjoyed the festival. Mr. Menneni thanked the City staff for their support. He expressed the Asian Indian community's desire to continue this cultural celebration tradition.

Global Asian Cultural Heritage Foundation – Ohio Moon Festival

Representative: Kay Zhang and Master Sen Gao

Request: \$5,000

Ms. Zhang, Vice President, and Master Gao, President, presented on their Ohio Moon Festival and Kung Fu Taiji Day. They concluded their ninth festival at Dublin Riverside Crossing Park exactly 10 days prior, achieving huge success with Dublin's support. They've called Dublin home since 2015, marking 10 years (with one COVID cancellation).

Initially hosted at Dublin-Scioto Park with eight committee members funding everything personally and begging food trucks to attend, they have grown tremendously. They host free events as a nonprofit educating about kung fu and tai chi health benefits while spreading cultural awareness.

Beginning with Chinese culture focus, it is now multicultural since the Moon Festival is widely celebrated across Asian cultures. This year featured representations from China, Japan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Philippines, and more. Ms. Zhang emphasized Dublin's 20% Asian population compared to under 7% nationally, making Asian culture important for Asian Americans and everyone in Dublin's vibrant, diverse community.

Ms. Zhang highlighted Master Gao as a world champion martial artist with over 20 world championship titles, coaching USA national team members. His students were competing in China that weekend, winning gold, silver, and bronze medals. An 80-year-old student (turning 81 in one month) won bronze at the World Kung Fu Championship held bi-annually in China.

Ohio Premier Soccer Club – Ohio Premier Invitational

Representative: Shane Woodruff, Events Director
Request: \$8,900

Mr. Woodruff, Events Director for Ohio Premier Soccer Club with nearly 30 years' involvement, manages the Ohio Premier Invitational. Taking over as events director recently, he prepared for the tournament's 27th annual event. They host 350-375 teams with over half from outside Columbus.

Awaiting final numbers, rough estimates showed over 2,000 hotel nights booked from out-of-town visitors. Restaurants have contacted them about better preparing for visitor influx, especially new establishments near Costco by Soccer First and Darree Park who were overwhelmed but happy.

Mr. Woodruff echoed praise for Dublin's fields compared to other municipalities with poorly maintained fields. Teams from nine different states including Long Island, Chicago, and Michigan appreciate field conditions, community atmosphere, and improved traffic flow with new roundabouts on Routes 161/33. They aim to expand with Sports Ohio facilities.

When Mr. Reiner mentioned appreciating trees for shade at baseball games, Mr. Woodruff agreed, noting that while Darree Park lacks trees near fields, surrounding woods provide shade where people set up tents for picnics. He observed people trying to share shade from small field-side trees during sunny weather.

Ohio Public Market Authority – Night Markets and North Market Wine Fest at Bridge Park

Representative: Kamryn Brown, Events Coordinator and Sarah Karpinski, Senior Manager of Programming and Events
Request: \$35,000 (\$15,000 for Night Markets and \$20,000 for Wine Fest at Bridge Park)

Ms. Brown, Events Coordinator at North Market Bridge Park, presented with Ms. Karpinski about their wine festival entering its fifth year in Dublin. Traditionally held at their downtown location, construction and other factors prompted the Dublin move, where they have seen considerable success. The festival features over 20 local wineries and vendors plus live music and entertainment.

Their biggest expense involves rental items. The outdoor event requires extensive barricading and edging to map the footprint. They have experienced a 30% increase in rental costs for barricades, tents, and similar items. Grant money would provide tents, tables, and chairs for participating wineries, plus barricades and associated labor.

Ms. Brown also discussed night markets, describing them as smaller footprint events supporting North Market merchants. All funding and profits support Bridge Park merchants while continuing their mission of supporting and incubating small local businesses, impacting event vendors. Doubling events this year brought great community response but increased costs.

When Mr. Reiner inquired about the night market, Ms. Brown explained it occurs on Longshore Street's northern side with street closure from John Shields Parkway to Tuller Ridge, housing about 55 vendors including entertainment. North Market's Market Bar benefits through DORA participation. The Thursday evening events run 6-9 PM twice monthly from May through October, providing community gathering opportunities while supporting merchants and local pop-up businesses.

One Dublin – Back to School Celebration

Representative: Brian Carr

Request: \$5,000

Mr. Carr, Executive Director at 7032 Hospital Drive, requested continued support for their annual back-to-school event providing backpacks and school supplies to Dublin City School District students. Recognizing that reducing social and financial stress increases educational outcomes and strengthens community, they requested increased funding due to growing needs across Dublin.

They distributed over 900 backpacks in August and expect increases next year. The program helps ensure student success without worrying about carrying books or obtaining supplies. When asked about determining need, Mr. Carr explained they have no income requirements or verification, trusting that students needing support will participate. Any student can register, with school counselors as key partners helping identify families while the program remains open to all community members. The Central Ohio community and surrounding areas benefit, with over 60 unique zip codes represented including participants from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Texas, Michigan, Washington D.C., and Wisconsin.

The Adaptive Sports Connection –Boundless Freedom Veterans Adventure Week

Representative: Kevin Hurst

Request: \$15,000

Mr. Hurst presented for Adaptive Sports Connection, a 30-year organization providing outdoor recreation and adaptive sports for people with physical, cognitive, and intellectual disabilities. They consider themselves core to helping people survive and thrive, focusing on physical activities with direct mental wellness impact.

Addressing the surgeon general's call about growing mental health crisis, they specifically focus on veterans through Boundless Freedom Weekend. This event takes veterans from normal environments to their Powell property for three days of free outdoor recreation with friends and family with eating and activities. They provide lodging for those traveling over 50 miles.

Partners include VA clinics in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Dayton for recruitment, plus Wounded Warrior Project's regional Cincinnati chapter. This year, their adaptive sports program leads brought over 20 athletes nationwide. Team Red, White &

Blue also has significant presence. They provided 40 hotel nights this year, anticipating growth to 80 next year, leveraging Dublin and Powell area restaurants.

Activities serve Dublin's 3,400 veterans year-round, though this specific July event occurs annually. Year-round activities begin in January with snow skiing at Snow Trails and Mad River Mountain, followed by kayaking, cycling, and adaptive soccer.

When Mr. Reiner mentioned their new \$10 million adaptive center project north of Dublin, Mr. Hurst confirmed the comprehensive campaign begun in 2022. The approximately \$5 million building will be completed theoretically in June next year. Additional funds support program sustainability and equipment purchases.

The fully ADA-compliant building will replace their current mid-1900s "band-aided" structure, enabling more community events, support groups, family activities, and indoor spaces for cycling and yoga. When Mr. Reiner suggested including Dublin as the local hotel resource in promotional materials, Mr. Hurst agreed, confirming they already book exclusively at Dublin hotels when hosting events there.

The Ohio State University Foundation – LiFEsports Summer Camp at Dublin City Schools (DCS)

Representatives: Dawn Anderson-Butcher, Co-Executive Director

Request: \$9,410

Ms. Anderson-Butcher, Co-Executive Director of Life Sports at Ohio State University, represented Dublin Life Sports housed in Dublin City Schools as a single fund within The Ohio State University Foundation. She clarified they do not sell hotel rooms or bring visitors but invest in community children who would not otherwise benefit from paid sports programs.

Life Sports works with five elementary schools feeding into Davis Middle School. School counselors and mental health workers identify young people falling behind academically, lacking good peer groups, or needing emotional regulation skills for classroom success. These targeted students are referred to Life Sports.

Dublin Life Sports operates as "the fifth quarter" at Indian Run Elementary, serving 100 youth from five schools. The district transports kids from across the City. The free program provides two meals and 15 hours of play-based social skills instruction over four weeks, teaching emotion regulation, teamwork, leadership, and integrity.

Beyond traditional sports, Life Sports provides exposure to eight different activities including lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, and hip-hop dance - opportunities children from poverty might not otherwise experience. They teach fundamental motor skills: kicking, striking, hitting, hand-eye coordination, and proper catching technique. These skills enable children to pursue other community physical activities, with Life Sports participants subsequently joining DYA using Chamber of Commerce and other organizational scholarships.

The program's success comes from multiple funding sources: City of Dublin, OSU, school district, corporate sector (Stanley Steemer, Gordon Flesch, Dick's Sporting Goods,

Cameron Mitchell, Rusty Bucket), foundations (Linde & Founte, Northwoods), and service clubs (Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis). Each entity sponsors children at approximately \$1,200 for summer and year-round clinics. With 68% of children returning annually, their "good problem" is insufficient capacity. Fifty percent of participants live in Dublin, providing the City an opportunity to support young residents preparing for middle school challenges.

Dublin Parents of Black Students Association – Back to School Picnic, DPBSA Education Series, Friendsgiving Gathering and MLK Sunday Supper

Representative: Crystal Maiuri

Request: \$3,669 total

Ms. Maiuri, President of Dublin Parents of Black Students Association (DPBSA), explained the organization has existed since the 1980s as a nonprofit booster organization registered with Dublin City Schools. Originally fostering belonging and community for their children, they now ensure parents are involved, educated, and engaged in community and school happenings.

Having recently learned about the hotel/motel tax grant opportunity despite the organization's long history, DPBSA provides year-end scholarships, promotes mentorship, and encourages scholastic excellence through various activities fostering belonging. After ebbing and flowing over decades, they restarted last year with a DPBSA Friendsgiving at Coffman High School, hosting over 120 family members and friends with catering and photos to build community and belonging.

They partnered with the City for the MLK Sunday Supper and held a back-to-school picnic with over 100 attendees. They have begun DPBSA history classes, with the first Sunday session covering ancient African civilizations. These classes help children feel grounded in identity while spreading information not typically covered in classical education. Originally planning five classes, they will manage four due to Friendsgiving in November, holidays, and potential January MLK Sunday Supper partnership, leaving February, March, and April for remaining sessions.

Staff Presentation/Committee Discussion

The Finance Committee then deliberated on grant allocations for all organizations. After reviewing applications against the rubric formula and discussing each organization's merits, community impact, and alignment with bed tax grant objectives, they made the following allocation decisions:

- Approved recommended amounts for most organizations based on rubric calculations
- Reduced Crawford Hoying Foundation funding from \$40,000 to \$30,000, signaling expectations for large organizations to seek alternative funding
- Increased Historic Dublin Business Association funding from the rubric result to \$36,000 using funds freed from Crawford Hoying reduction

- Maintained Dublin Soccer League funding at previous year's \$8,500 level despite lower rubric score
- Supported Adaptive Sports Connection at \$5,000 (previous year's level) rather than reduced sports tournament formula amount
- Approved fee waivers for Dublin Jerome High School's homecoming parade rather than direct funding
- Reduced Ohio Public Market Authority allocations slightly for both night market and wine festival

Discussion highlighted balancing the effort to support community events as well as prioritize activities that generate hotel stays and economic development. Vice Mayor Alutto advocated for fuller fund distribution to support community building, while Mr. Keeler and Mr. Reiner preferred maintaining reserves for future City-sponsored events.

Vice Mayor Alutto moved to recommend to City Council approval of the following grant awards totaling \$253,827.97. Mr. Keeler seconded the motion.

HDBA - Historic Dublin Business Assoc. Events	\$36,000.00
JASCO – Japan FestOH!	\$12,466.67
Dublin Education Foundation – Elevate Education	\$ 5,000.00
Dublin Soccer League – Dublin Charity Cup	\$ 8,500.00
Dublin Special Olympics - Shamrock Games	\$ 1,020.00
The Glitter Guild – Glitter Camp	\$ 1,333.00
Arthritis Foundation - Classic Auto Show and Cruise-In	\$14,300.00
Club Ohio Soccer - Nike Challenge Cup	\$14,000.00
Columbus Chinese Academy – Lunar New Year Festival	\$ 2,800.00
Crawford Hoying Foundation - Dublin Market & Fore!Fest	\$30,000.00
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation - Take Steps Walk	\$ 1,874.67
Dublin AM Rotary - Classic Car Show	\$ 1,875.53
Dublin Historical Society – Museum and Archives	\$36,000.00
Dublin Scioto Lacrosse Boosters - OMS Lacrosse Tournament	\$11,184.44
Dublin United - Dublin United Champions Cup	\$ 7,530.00
Dublin Youth Athletics - Wayne Williams Memorial Tournament	\$21,000.00
FIA – Diwali Festival	\$ 7,669.33
Global Asian Cultural Heritage Foundation – Moon Festival	\$ 3,333.00
Ohio Premier Soccer Club - Ohio Premier Invitational	\$ 8,900.00
Ohio Public Market Authority – North Market Night Markets	\$ 8,000.00
Ohio Public Market Authority – North Market Wine Fest	\$ 9,000.00
One Dublin – Back to School Celebration	\$ 2,000.00
The Adaptive Sports Connection – Boundless Freedom Veterans	\$ 5,000.00
Ohio State University Foundation – LiFEsports Summer Camp	\$ 4,391.33
Dublin Parents of Black Students Association Events	\$ 650.00

Vote on the motion: Vice Mayor Alutto, yes; Mr. Reiner, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.


Chair, Finance Committee
Clerk of Council