

**Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
12 March 2008
Lincoln Center, Room 307**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Role Call

Call to Order: 7:05 PM by James Cavallo

Members Present: James Cavallo, Gordon Goodman, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Ken Lerner, William Runyon, Chris Saricks, David Schulz, Mark Thoman

Members Absent: Jane Amorosi, John Schofield, Charley Smart, Jerry Yoksoulian

Guests: Shannon Forsythe, DG Park District

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes unanimously accepted.

3. Treasurer's Report

Gordon Goodman, Treasurer, provided a report on the current status of PDHA funds. For the period of 1 Dec 2007 through 11 March 2008, donations to PDHA totaled \$835.00 and expenditures totaled \$522.82. Expenditures included \$300 membership fee to the Illinois Environmental Council. Checking balance as of 11 March 2008 was \$766.24. The PDHA CD with the Community Bank of Downers Grove (matures on 30 July 2008) totals \$3,084.55. Total assets as of 11 March 2008 = \$3,850.79.

The Treasurer's report was discussed and unanimously accepted.

4. Consideration of Support to DGPD Little Sprouts program for 2008

Shannon Forsythe provided an overview of last year's program, which received PDHA funding support, as well as other education activities at Lyman Woods. The Little Sprouts program is the only Park District program that covers an entire class grade (1st grade). The Park District then asked for PDHA to again provide a challenge grant to support the program as it had done the previous year. Following a discussion about the level of the challenge grant and required revisions to the FY2008 budget to reflect the challenge grant, Jim Cavallo made a motion to provide \$800 as a challenge grant for the Little Sprouts Fall 2008 program, subject to the Park District obtaining other funding

sources and PDHA completing a FY2008 budget revision. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

5. DG Park District Natural Areas Update

Shannon Forsythe provided an update for activities at Belmont Prairie and Lyman Woods.

Belmont Prairie: The Park District has been trying to conduct a controlled burn at Belmont Prairie, but has been unsuccessful because of unsuitable weather conditions. A work day to remove brush was scheduled for March 15th.

Lyman Woods: The Park District was preparing for upcoming spring and summer programs. Summer camps are scheduled for every week except the week of July 4th.

The Project Areas 3 stream bank stabilization project has moved into the construction phase. Brush has been removed and stabilization is ongoing. Stabilization and seeding is expected to be completed this spring, with a maintenance phase expected to begin in June.

Woods Fest moved to October 5, 2008, coordinating with DG Historical Museum. New event will be called "Hike Through History." PDHA may participate.

Gordon Goodman asked about reinstatement of a spring wildflower hike. Shannon supported the idea and suggested combining with a hike to show the stream bank restoration program.

Workdays Schedule: Belmont Prairie – March 15, Sept 20, and Oct 18
Lyman Woods – April 19, May 17, June 14, July 19, Aug 16

First Annual Great Garlic Mustard Pull – May 3rd, 10-12AM

Shannon Forsythe said she would prove a brief write-up she is preparing for extending the hours of the Interpretive Center.

Gordon Goodman asked about Park District policy regarding port-a-potty's at other Park District areas, and would like a proposal for 24-hr restroom facilities at Lyman Woods.

6. DG Coalition foe Managed Redevelopment Update

Ken Lerner provided a Coalition update. The Coalition meet with the Community Planning Director. The Village produced its own version of the Neighborhood Construction Watch Handbook, which developers are required to distribute to adjacent properties within 100 ft of the construction area.

To date, the Village has not applied for certification as a local government, so while it may designate landmark historic status, property tax benefits cannot be realized. Village certification would also allow the Village to apply for grant monies. The Village Board indicated that it felt it was not directed to apply for certification. Ken Lerner and Gordon Goodman contacted Commissioner Tulley about this issue, which was brought up and discussed at the next Council meeting. Village staff will now update the historic property survey and apply for certification. Mark Thoman indicated that there was a 24-month timeline for completing the survey and getting certification, which is provided by the state. Village staff will keep Commissioner Tulley informed on the status of the certification process and Ken Lerner will follow-up certification status with the Commissioner.

Gordon Goodman sent an email to several Council members, the Community Development Director, City Manager, and the Mayor regarding the conduct of a windshield tour/survey of historic properties in the Village. The Village apparently has already done this as part of a qualitative evaluation of structural integrity in the Village. PDHA would like another similar activity, but will wait to hear back from Ken Lerner regarding status of the certification process.

Approaches to assist Commissioner Tulley were discussed. James Cavallo will get more information from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (Office?) regarding the certification process. Gordon Goodman will get a list of already certified communities and a point-of-contact for each community. Ken Lerner will help determine how close the Village is to certification. PDHA will then provide this information to the Village to help spur a decision to seek certification.

James Cavallo made a motion that any PDHA member that can should attend the City Council meeting on March 18 and go on record to approve a development ordinance for eliminating flag lots. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Mark Thoman will prepare a statement that he will read at the meeting on behalf of the PDHA. He also suggested submitting the statement to the Village Manager before the meeting so it gets put into the official record for that meeting.

7. Highway Cleanup Planning

Four cleanup dates were identified, all on Saturday morning:
April 12, June 21, Aug 23, and Oct 25. James Cavallo will compose a letter to Megan Dughars in the Village Grounds Dept. requesting those dates.

8. Update on Climate Change Resolution

The climate change letter was sent to State Representatives Patty Bellock and James Meyer, and State Senator Kirk Dillard. Rep. Bellock left an email saying she was pleased with the letter, while Senator Dillard wrote back indicating he was also pleased. If the

PDHA agrees, Dave Schulz will provide James Cavallo with names of individuals who are to receive the letter from PDHA, including the Village Mayor and City Council members, and out Federal Senators and Representative. Gordon Goodman made a motion to accept the letter, and the motion was unanimously approved.

9. Tree Ordinance Update

Gordon Goodman provided an update on the status of the tree ordinance. The Village Council voted 5-2 against the ordinance. The ordinance will be included in general goals under the general community objectives (TDC3). The Council did not act on an Environmental Commission recommendation to add the ordinance. The commission expressed concerns about the loss of heritage trees to developers of private lots. Village staff prepared a set of requirements that would apply to all residents, but does not want a private tree ordinance. Gordon Goodman suggested that PDHA wait until this fall and see what is presented by the Village at that time.

Suggestions to increase public support for such an ordinance included organizing a speaker series (J. Cavallo), and initiate a tree ordinance petition drive during heritage fest (D. Schulz). Several PDHA members voiced preference for a petition drive but not at the Heritage Fest. The idea of a 'special' newsletter was also discussed. General consensus was to wait until this fall to see what the Village comes up with.

10. Other Business

Heritage Fest participation: A short discussion was held regarding a PDHA booth at Heritage Fest. Suggestions included possibly sharing a table/booth with other groups (climate change/cool cities). No decision was made at this time.

11. Next Meeting – 11 June 2008

12. Meeting Adjourned – 9:25PM