

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
http://www.pdha.org
Regular Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Lincoln Center – Room 202
June 14, 2006

Attendance: Jane Amorosi, Laurel Bowen, James Cavallo, Aspasia Colias, Gordon Goodman, Ken Lerner, Bill Runyon, Dave Schulz, Jerry Yoksouljian, Charley Smart, (Quorum present)
Absent: Lee Forsythe, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Matt LeCren, Chris Saricks, **Guests:** Alex Miller, Emil Rusnak, Wayne Lela

Meeting called to order by Chairman James Cavallo at 7:15 p.m.

Approval of March 22, 2006 Meeting minutes: Minutes were approved as prepared.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning Balance (as of 3/22/2006) = \$4,431.94. Income was \$285 (8 donations). Expenditures: \$458.80 Ending Balance = \$4,258.14 Checking Balance \$758.14 with \$3,500 CD maturing 10/30/2006 at Community Bank of DG. Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

PDHA Website: Website looks nice. The main name transfer has yet to occur. Charley is to contact Mark Sklair to work out details. Quiz needs updating, probably monthly. All are encouraged to send Charley ideas at Charleysmart@comcast.net or 969.8085.

DG Park District Activities: Shannon Forsythe, Manager of Natural Areas and Interpretative Programs, could not attend and provided a written report about activities at Lyman Woods and Belmont prairie.

Lyman Woods: Four volunteer workdays were held at Lyman Woods. The northeast wetland and south prairie kame at Lyman Woods were burned. Summer camps are in session at Lyman Woods.

Interpretive Center: Woodsfest was held May 7. This event included bird banding, the Forest Preserve's Fire Boot Camp, guided trail hikes, a program on stream bank ecology that highlighted the restoration work in PSA I, and crafts and games in and around the Interpretive Center. District 58 has changed their 5th grade science curriculum and the new learning standards no longer align with the Wetland Education Program. The program will be discontinued for District 58 schools, although 1st grade Little Sprouts will continue in fall 2006.

Streambank Stabilization Project: Integrated Lakes Management was awarded the contract for Project Site Area I, Phase III (ongoing monitoring and maintenance). Project Site Area II, Phase II (streambank restoration work) was opened for bidding on June 7. PDHA concerns include tree removal rationale and using alternate, less expensive methods.

Belmont Prairie: An Eagle Scout installed an outdoor classroom in the daylily area at Belmont Prairie. One volunteer workday was held at Belmont Prairie this spring. Volunteers worked to cut brush and seed recently cleared areas. One controlled burn was performed.

Volunteer stewards at both Lyman Woods and Belmont Prairie are needed. Please pass the word. If anyone is interested they should contact Shannon at 963.1304.

Cooperation with Other Groups: Director Hlohowskyj suggested that PDHA investigate more cooperation with other local environmentally aware groups such as the Organic Gardeners. Chair Cavallo expressed a particular interest in arranging a presentation about Midwestern prairies. It was noted that spring is a particularly good time of the year for public programs about natural features. Directors Hlohowskyj and Cavallo volunteered to explore a possible joint public meeting with other local groups.

Updating Bylaws: Ken Lerner reported about a possible Bylaw change as attached to these minutes. This change would permit Directors to take some actions without a meeting through the written consent of a majority of the Directors then in office. The proposed change is to ARTICLE III, Board of Directors.

Section 11 of that Article which currently reads:

SECTION 11. Informal Action. Any action required to or which may be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, is signed by all the Directors.

The following proposal is to replace that section with the following:

Section 11. Action by Written Consent. Any action required to or which may be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting through the written consent of a majority of the Directors then in office. Actions proposed for written consent will be submitted to the Directors through written copy or electronic mail, as appropriate for each Director. A Director may express written consent either through (a) a signed copy of the proposed action, indicating their consent thereto, or (b) an electronic mail message, indicating consent to the proposed action and quoting its entire text.

After much discussion, the majority voted that we need a method of reaching a decision by mail/email outside of a regular meeting. Motion for super majority vote was defeated. It must be initiated by the Chairman or Vice Chairman and contain a respond by date. **The intention is that this only be used infrequently on topics that are considered urgent and for non-controversial issues.** The responses by Directors must be in writing and include the text in the body of the response. Motion by C. Smart, seconded by J. Yoksoulian. Passed: 9 in favor, 1 opposed.

Highway Clean-up Dates: March 25 – 7 people, 11 bags, May 20 – 7 people, 7 bags, Chris found \$100 & donated to PDHA! **Aug 26, & Oct 21.** We meet at 33rd Street & Highland Ave.

Proposed Residential Zoning Changes: Director Lerner gave an update about the residential zoning changes for redeveloped property passed by Council on June 6 and the activities of the DG Coalition for Managed Redevelopment. Modest changes include lot coverage limit, height limit defined differently, incentives for rear garage and front porch, sideyard setback on lots wider than 50ft is 10% or 5 ft, whichever is greater. Demolition ordinance is being considered by Council. Code enforcement initiation is being “considered”. He also described progress toward the Architectural Design Review Board considering a Historic Preservation Ordinance for Downers Grove. Next Arch Rev Bd mtg is June 22, 5 p.m. at Village Hall.

Emil Rusnak (6001 Brookbank Rd) explained the Bradley Brookbank Prairie development that is in the works. The Village has announced the following: Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Stormwater and Flood Plain Oversight Committee at 7:00pm on Thursday, June 22, 2006, at the Public Works Facility, 5101 Walnut Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois, on a variance petition by the Village of Downers Grove regarding the **Brookbank Road right-of-way, south of 59th Street and north of 60th Place.**

The Village (petitioner) is seeking a variance from the DuPage County Countywide Stormwater and Flood Plain Ordinance and from the Village of Downers Grove Stormwater and Flood Plain Ordinance regarding the permitted depth of flooding on a roadway. All interested persons should attend this hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard. The hearing may be continued from time to time without further public notice. Stormwater and Flood Plain Oversight Committee - Jonathan C. Hall, P.E., Stormwater Administrator

This request will only benefit the developer and seriously impact the neighborhood by allowing up to 18” of stormwater on roadway. Brookbank will have second lane (southbound) installed by developer. Village

has sold easement to developer for \$10,000 to enable him to build the 7th home. Current codes only permit 3 homes on this property (sold to Bradley for \$275,000) which includes a wetland and a floodplain.

PDHA unanimously opposes the variance and voted to approve the following resolution to be publicized to Village at Council meeting on 6/20 and at hearing on 6/22: **Be it resolved that the PDHA, a non-profit organization committed to preserving the environment of Downers Grove, hereby opposes any variance to the DuPage County Stormwater and Flood Plain Ordinance and the Downers Grove Stormwater and Flood Plain Ordinance regarding the development project on Brookbank and Middaugh Avenues between 59th Street and 60th Place.** This resolution was unanimously approved.

Mercury pollution: Discussion regarding previously approved PDHA resolution regarding mercury pollution primarily caused by coal fired generating plants and the IEC resolution was updated by D. Schulz and voted unanimously to approve as follows: **Be it resolved that PDHA hereby supports the adoption of a statewide rule that requires 90% emission reduction of mercury emissions from all coal fired electric generating units by no later than 2012.**

Date for Next Meeting: September 20, 2006 at 7 p.m. Room 202 Lincoln Center

Meeting adjourned: 9:55 p.m.

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Mark Your Calendar:

DG Environmental Commission Meeting: 2nd Tuesday, Public Works at 7 p.m.

Village Council: Meets every Tuesday at Village Hall: 6:30 p.m.

Park District: meets first (Lincoln Center) and third (Village Hall) Thursday: 7 p.m.

Websites of Interest: www.pdha.org www.greenfund.com
www.environmentaldefense.org www.ilenviro.org
www.earthshare.org www.dginformationnetwork.org
www.PRESERVEtheDCFPD@aol.com www.downersgrovewatch.org
www.preservationofourforests.org www.dgcmr.org
www.dgcadvocates.org www.empowerdgtaxpayers.com

Park Board Meetings: Thurs, June 15 (Village Hall) & July 6, 2006 (Lincoln Ctr) at 7 p.m.

DG Environmental Commission Meetings: July 13 Public Works at 7 p.m.

PDHA Board Meeting Wed., 2006, 7:00 p.m. in Lincoln Center Room 202

PDHA Highland Ave Clean up: August 26 and October 21

Respectfully Submitted: Laurel Q. Bowen, Secretary