

**Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance**  
**http://www.pdha.org**  
**Regular Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**Lincoln Center – Room 202**  
**September 20, 2006**

**Attendance:** Jane Amorosi, Laurel Bowen, Aspasia Colias, Gordon Goodman, Lee Forsythe, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Matt LeCren, Bill Runyon, Chris Saricks, Jerry Yoksoulian, Charley Smart (Quorum present) **Absent:** James Cavallo, Ken Lerner, Dave Schulz **Guests:** David Barber (Director Public Works), Dan Casciato, Greg Evans (President DG Historical Society), Shannon Forsythe (DG Park District Manager of Natural Areas and Interpretative Programs), Mike Morley, Emil Rusnak, Chris Salman, Jan Smart, John Schofield

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pro-tem Jerry Yoksoulian at 7:10 p.m.

**Approval of June 14, 2006 Meeting minutes:** Minutes were approved as prepared.

**Treasurer's Report:** G. Goodman reported beginning balance (as of 6/14/2006) = \$4,258.14. Income was \$0. Expenditures: \$0. 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. Charley updated the Quiz to include original 1846 Blodgett House. All are encouraged to send Charley ideas at [Charleysmart@comcast.net](mailto:Charleysmart@comcast.net) or 969.8085.

**DG Park District Activities:** Shannon Forsythe reported work on Site Area II at Lyman Woods streambank stabilization project is scheduled for completion Spring 2007. Work on two streams and the replacement of the bridge to occur in Oct 2006. Clearing of brush and seed collection workdays in Lyman Woods – Oct 21, Nov 5, Nov 18. Belmont Prairie workday on October 7. Photo contest for Lyman Woods deadline is Nov 1 @ 4 pm.

**Blodgett House at 812 Randall Street:** Greg Evans reported that this home, built in 1842, was moved from the original site on the Historic Museum property in 1880. The Historic Society gave the Museum to the Park District in 1978. Chris Salman purchased this property in June 2006. Due to historic value of home (possibly on underground RR) the proposed plan is to move the house back to the Museum property. A couple trees and electric line would be removed. Greg spoke with Dan Cermak and Karen Shannon regarding potential for this addition to Park District Museum property to revitalize the Museum. Chris Saricks, Charley Smart and Gordon Goodman to research a plan to help facilitate the potential move of this house.

**Brookbank Road Stormwater Issue:** David Barber gave an overview including showing the original historic 1959 Downers Grove Stormwater Plan. St. Joseph's Creek has two branches, this Brookbank Road Stormwater issue involves the south branch that flows to Barth Pond. Flood last occurred in 1957. At that time, 61<sup>st</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> did not extend west of Brookbank. Brookbank subdivision development was approved by Village in 2001. Dispute with County which caused subsequent probationary status in DG has been settled per Mr. Barber. Further discussion included floodways & floodplains; stormwater requirement to deter volume of water coming into the area; development fill requires excavation of same amount elsewhere on property. Options include raising the roadway and not putting in a southbound lane. Emil Rusnak (6001 Brookbank Rd) contended the Bradley Brookbank Prairie development has caused water in his crawl space. Mr. Barber assured that neighborhood impact will be considered and meetings will be held with the neighbors surrounding the development before alternate proposal is submitted to the Village Council. Next Stormwater and Flood Plain Oversight Committee meeting to be on Thursday, Oct 25 at Public Works (Jonathan C. Hall, P.E., Stormwater Administrator)

**Flag lot at 3700 Woodland Lane:** Discussion included letter and copy of the proposed plat for the lot split provided by Roy Thygesen, the petitioner for this lot split. Dan Casciato, next door neighbor, spoke against the proposed flag lot split and reported that he talked with Forest Preserve Commissioner Wally Brown, who also opposes this proposal. Mr. Casciato stated this is a precedent setting issue, referred to a Council meeting in Oct 2002 when Council approved a flag lot and the Mayor stated that was "the last flag lot he would approve." PDHA Board voted unanimously to oppose the flag lot split due to its potential for adverse impact on Lyman Woods preserve. Plan Commission Meeting will be Monday, Oct 2. Ihor, Gordon and Laurel will compose letter of opposition to be sent to the Village Manager Pavlicek, the Forest Preserve District Dewey Pierotti, the Park District Administrator Dan Cermak and Ken Lerner, DG Coalition for Managed

Redevelopment. This petition is to be considered at the Plan Commission meeting on Monday, October 2 at Village Hall.

**Tree Ordinance Enforcement:** John Schofield gave history of the Village tree ordinance as proposed by the Village forester was adopted by Village in May 2005. This ordinance, which covers only parkway trees, is not working. Photos at 5628 and 5630 Plymouth were presented. Its enforcement more teeth as follows:

1. Village employees – taking seriously a recently implemented “own the streets” campaign.
2. Developers must be held accountable and fined according to the Village ordinance.
3. Public action is necessary to continue to remind Village of problems all over town not being addressed.

Mr. Schofield suggested we use Arbor Day as the day to be particularly vigilant in our violation reports. It was agreed to put link on PDHA website to the Village’s Community Response Center in order to facilitate reports of code violations.

**Architectural Design Review Board:** Gordon reported that this Village Board supports a Historic Preservation Ordinance for Downers Grove and an effective design review process. The current ad-hoc **ADRB** is expected to finish its work by the end of October. The group’s next meeting is September 28.

**DG Environmental Concerns Commission:** Toxic Waste Drop off to be held on Saturday, Sept 30 at Belmont Station. Cards were circulated for suggestions, comments and/or complaints to the **DGECC**.

**Creation of Annual Meeting Committee and Nominating Committee:** By unanimous vote PDHA Directors approve creation of an Annual Meeting Committee and of a Nominating Committee, both with members to be appointed by Chair Jim Cavallo.

**Illinois Environmental Council:** 2006 Environmental Leadership Dinner will be held Thursday, October 5th, 2006 at the Intercontinental Chicago, Grand Ballroom, located at 505 North Michigan Ave, Chicago. There will be a reception at 5:30 pm, dinner and program at 6:30 pm. Agenda includes gubernatorial candidates, **IEC** achievements and recognition of key environmental leaders throughout Illinois.

**Featured Speakers: The Candidates for Governor**

**Hon. Rod Blagojevich**, Democrat (*Invited*)

**Hon. Judy Baar Topinka**, Republican

**Mr. Rich Whitney**, Green

The 2006 Environmental Leadership Honorees are **Carl Becker, Marian Byrnes, Hazel Johnson, Rand Sparling, Barbara Turner**. For more information or to register go to [www.ilenviro.org/dinner2006](http://www.ilenviro.org/dinner2006).

**First United Methodist Church** will hold Environmental Series for anyone interested on following dates:

Sunday, Oct 15 – 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Water Quality Issues

Sunday, Nov 5 – 9:30 -10:30 am – Global Warming Legislative Action – Rebecca Stanfield, Environmental Illinois

Sunday, Jan 7 or 14 – 9:30 – 10:30 am – Global Warming Voluntary Action – Colleen Sarna, Sierra Club

**Date for Next PDHA Meeting: November 1, 2006 at 7 p.m. Room 503 at Lincoln Center**

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:50 p.m.

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**Mark Your Calendar:**

**DG Environmental Concerns Commission Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 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.

**Plan Commission Meeting:** Monday, October 2, 2006 at 7 p.m. Village Hall

**Park Board Meetings:** Thurs, Oct 5 (Lincoln Center) & Oct 19 (Village Hall) at 7 p.m.

**PDHA Board Meeting** Wed., November 1, 2006, 7:00 p.m. in Lincoln Center Room 503

**PDHA Annual Meeting** Wed., December 6, 2006, 7:00 p.m. in Lincoln Center Room 503

**PDHA Highland Ave Clean up:** October 21 at 8:30 to 11:00 am

**Websites of Interest:**

[www.pdha.org](http://www.pdha.org)

[www.greenfund.com](http://www.greenfund.com)

[www.environmentaldefense.org](http://www.environmentaldefense.org)

[www.ilenviro.org](http://www.ilenviro.org)

[www.earthshare.org](http://www.earthshare.org)

[www.PRESERVEtheDCFPD@aol.com](mailto:www.PRESERVEtheDCFPD@aol.com)

[www.preservationofourforests.org](http://www.preservationofourforests.org)

[www.dgcmr.org](http://www.dgcmr.org)

Respectfully Submitted: Laurel Q. Bowen, Secretary