

**Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
15 October 2008
Lincoln Center**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Role Call

Call to Order: 7:02 PM by James Cavallo

Members Present: James Cavallo, Gordon Goodman, Ihor Hlohowskyj, William Runyon, Chris Saricks, Mark Thoman, Jane Amorosi, Jerry Yoksoulian, John Schofield

Members Absent: Charley Smart, Ken Lerner, David Schulz

Guests: Maureen Thomas, DG Resident

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes of the 17 July 2008 meeting were unanimously accepted. Final minutes to be sent to G. Goodman for website posting.

3. Treasurer's Report

Gordon Goodman, Treasurer, provided a report on the current status of PDHA funds. For the period of 1 Nov 2007 through 13 Oct 2008, donations to PDHA totaled \$1,245.00. An additional \$646.05 were also deposited to the PDHA checking account: these funds include \$146.05 interest and \$500.00 principal deposited from the PDHA's CD which matured on 30 July 2008. Expenditures since 1 Nov 2007 totaled \$966.01, \$205.29 since the March meeting. These recent expenditures were for the spring newsletter printing and mailing costs. Approved future expenditures include \$300.00 for the 2008 dues to Chicago Wilderness, and \$800.00 matching funds for the DG Park District Little Sprouts program. Checking balance as of 13 Oct 2008 was \$1,369.40. The PDHA CD with the Community Bank of Downers Grove (matures on 30 July 2009) totals \$2,516.72. Total PDHA assets as of 13 Oct 2008 = \$3,480.42.

G. Goodman also provided an update of other treasurer activities, specifically the filing of PDHA financial reports with the State of Illinois. Financial reports from the previous three years, along with the current report that identifies the PDHA members, were filed with the State. Because the previous reports were not filed with the State, the current filing required the payment of a \$100 late-filing fee along with the normal \$10 filing fee. The next filing is due before 30 April 2009.

The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted, pending correction of typos identified by other members.

4. Highway Cleanup

The next highway cleanup was scheduled for 25 Oct 2008. J. Cavallo will not be able to participate and will make arrangements to give the gate key to another PDHA member for the cleanup date. G. Goodman will post the cleanup date on the PDHA website.

5. Committees for New Officers and Board Members

J. Cavallo identified need to establish committees for selecting new officers and for new board members. Responsibilities include calling existing members to determine their intentions for continuing as board members of PDHA and for identifying new members.

G. Goodman, I. Hlohowskyj, and M. Thoman volunteered to serve on these committees. J. Cavallo suggested the committee try to identify and recruit a high school or college student. J. Schofield suggested possibility of advertising for new members on the Downers Grove website. G. Goodman will add a call for new members to the PDHA website.

6. Annual Meeting

A brief discussion was held regarding possible topics for the annual meeting.

C. Saricks suggested a speaker from a local or regional bicycling organization. J. Schofield suggested the possibility of a panel with the Village of Downers Grove and others to discuss what is going on with regard to bicycling in the area. J. Cavallo offered to contact the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation about possible participation on a bicycle rider panel with a focus on local/county bicycle plans.

G. Goodman suggested a speaker to discuss the potential impact of Village infrastructure activities on parkway trees. J. Schofield felt that would not be a good topic for the annual meeting. J. Amorosi suggested a speaker to discuss the use of water from the Great Lakes. G. Goodman also suggested Bob Jensen giving a talk on the history of Downers Grove.

C. Saricks and J. Schofield volunteered to select a topic and identify one or more speakers for the annual meeting.

Following a discussion of possible dates for the annual meeting, there was unanimous agreement that the annual meeting would be held on December 3, 2008. J. Cavallo volunteered to take care of reserving meeting room space for the meeting.

7. PDHA Newsletter Articles

Three items will be added to the next PDHA newsletter. These will include 1) an update on the Carpenter House, 2) a status report of the Blodgett House restoration, and 3) announcement of the upcoming annual meeting.

8. Patriot Park Citizen's Concerns

Maureen Thomas, representing Village residents from the Patriot's Park neighborhood, discussed that groups recent interactions with the DG Park District regarding the past tree removal at Patriot's Park and a meeting on the possible siting of a community pool at the park. She then requested assistance from PDHA in the form of suggestions on how to proceed with future interactions with the Park District. J. Cavallo suggested that the citizens establish some sort of "Friends of the Park" organization that would serve as the representative of the local citizens in interactions with the Park District. G. Goodman suggested that the group focus only on issues directly related to Patriot's Park and seek development of an operational plan for the park. M. Thoman cautioned that the group not be confrontational but rather supportive of the Park District and offer to work with the District in addressing issues such as control of invasive vegetation at the park. J. Cavallo suggested that the group develop a strawman list of issues (such as native and invasive plant surveys, animal surveys, etc.) and use this to plan future interactions with the District. J. Cavallo offered the services of PDHA to help the citizen group become incorporated as a non-profit organization. He asked the PDHA if it should/would like to help the citizens organize in this manner. M. Thoman suggested that the PDHA provide via email information (such as web links) to the citizens group on what to do and get in order to organize and establish non-profit status.

10. Next Meeting – the next meeting of the PDHA, which will be its Annual Meeting, held at 7PM, 3 December 2008.

11. Meeting Adjourned – 8:06 PM