

**Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
17 July 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, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Ken Lerner, William Runyon, Chris Saricks, David Schulz, Mark Thoman, Jane Amorosi, John Schofield, Jerry Yoksoulian

Members Absent: Gordon Goodman , Charley Smart

Guests: Megan Bourke, Management Analyst, Village of Downers Grove

2. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes unanimously accepted pending final revisions per comments received from S. Forsythe, DG Park District. Final minutes to be sent to G. Goodman for website posting.

3. Treasurer's Report

Gordon Goodman, Treasurer, provided (via J. Cavallo) a report on the current status of PDHA funds. For the period of 1 Dec 2007 through 13 July 2008, donations to PDHA totaled \$1,145.00, none since the last Treasurer report. Expenditures since 1 December 2007 totaled \$760.72, none since the last Treasurer report. 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 July 2008 was \$868.34. The PDHA CD with the Community Bank of Downers Grove (matures on 30 July 2008) totals \$3,133.82. Total assets as of 13 July 2008 = \$4,002.16.

The Treasurer's report was discussed and unanimously accepted.

J. Cavallo asked about disposition of the CD which matures on 7/30/2008. The Alliance had agreed during the last meeting in June to apply \$2,500 to a new CD and place the balance in the Alliance checking account. However, with G. Goodman on vacation, it was unclear how the CD would be handled. J. Schofield offered to go to the Community Bank of Downers Grove on 7/30 and negotiate a new rate, and then figure out how to complete the transaction without G. Goodman. There was unanimous agreement for J. Schofield to do this.

3. DG Recycling Extravaganza

Megan Bourke from the Community Response center of the Village of Downers Grove spoke about the upcoming Recycling Extravaganza. The event is scheduled for 20 September 2008, and information is available on the DG home page. M. Bourke provided a brief history of the conception of the event (in response to the types of materials thrown away in the community during Amnesty Week). J. Cavallo offered the support of PDHA in the way of possible volunteers to staff the event, providing a link on the PDHA website to the event link on the DG website, providing an official letter of support from the PDHA, and possibly sending out email notification to folks registered to receive email updates from the PDHA. J. Cavallo made a motion that PDHA support the event and urge others to participate. The motion was seconded (D. Schulz) and unanimously passed. M. Bourke would look into providing the PDHA webmaster with a pdf file of the event flyer for posting on the PDHA website.

4. DG Village Goals

M. Thoman presented a summary of a recent Village meeting where the village goals were discussed. Three top goals identified for the Village were a green energy policy, an urban forest program, and a new village hall. K. Lerner asked whether the PDHA should look into how the Village is managing/addressing stormwater problems, and whether the Village is looking into 'green' solutions. J. Schofield asked whether the PDHA should look into how parklands are being used for water management and whether such an approach is sound or not. J. Cavallo discussed an environmental checklist that the City of Chicago uses for developers which can provide benefits (such as expedited permitting) to developers who go 'green.'

5. Update of PDHA Meeting with the DG Park District Regarding Damage at Lyman Woods and District Tree Removal Policies and Procedures

C. Saricks and D. Schulz met on 9 July 2008 with T. Reese and P. Fyle of the Park District (PD) for a follow up discussion of issues related to the recent damage that was incurred during restoration work at Lyman Woods. The PD was revegetating disturbed areas with plugs and seeding, and would be placing barriers and signage to limit public access to the disturbed areas. With regard to garlic mustard control, whipping was being employed and a burn is planned for the fall. The PD indicated that it was also considering herbicide use but did take into advisement a request for repeated burns and no herbicide. Regarding the tree damage that occurred during previous restoration work, the PD identified 12 small trees that had been damaged and indicated these would be replaced with trees twice the diameter of the damaged trees (2:1 diameter breast height ratio).

Regarding trail damage, PDHA requested a written policy be developed by the PD. The PD seemed receptive to the idea and indicated this would be taken to the Park Board for consideration.

The PDHA-PD discussion then moved to tree removal. The PD indicated that the tree removal at Patriots Park was a planned activity. The PD agreed to do no more tree removal at Patriots Park, and plant additional trees as well as native vegetation. However, there is no clear policy governing tree removal by the PD. T. Reese indicated that the PD has been making efforts to increase the tree inventory on PD lands. PDHA suggested that there should be a clear written policy by the PD promoting tree establishment, and including public notification of any planned large-scale tree removal activities. The PD seemed willing to consider this and will take the suggestion to D. Cermak for discussion.

No action items were identified at the conclusion of the PDHA-PD meeting, but T. Reese was going to discuss the PDHA concerns and suggestions with D. Cermak, and then contact PDHA about how the PD is going to proceed.

D. Schulz suggested that the PDHA work with the PDHA for the next 2 months on this policy issue, but if there is no movement by the September PDHA meeting, then PDHA should develop such a policy on its own.

J. Schofield suggested that it would be a good idea to send a thank you letter to the PD along with a list of the items discussed. D. Schulz indicated that the PD did respond to the PDHA via letter thanking the Alliance and acknowledging its concerns. D. Schulz and K. Lerner asked that the PDHA push the PD to ensure that qualified staff are the ones making tree/land management decisions.

J. Schofield stated that since the Village is expecting about 20% of the Village canopy to be lost to the emerald ash borer, the Village should be focusing on a tree management plan. The PDHA should consider a resolution to be sent to all tree management organizations that deal with emergencies facing our trees. J. Cavallo suggested this be an item of discussion at the next PDHA meeting. M. Thoman and J. Schofield will develop a draft letter to the PD/Village on the topic of tree management for discussion at the next meeting. J. Cavallo suggested inviting other organizations to participate in the letter in order to build consensus across the community.

6. Highway Cleanup

Next cleanup day is scheduled for 23 August 2008.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 24 September 2008.

8. Meeting Adjourned – 9:00 PM