

**Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
18 February 2009
Lincoln Center**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Role Call

Call to Order: 7:10 PM by James Cavallo

Members Present: James Cavallo, Gordon Goodman, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Chris Saricks, Sonja Tiegs, Mark Thoman, Ken Lerner, Jane Amorosi, Jerry Yoksoulion, David Schulz, Wallace Brown

Members Absent: Charley Smart, William Runyon, John Schofield

Guests: None

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A summary of the draft minutes of the 28 January 2009 meeting was provided by I. Hlohowskyj, Secretary. M. Thoman made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections (adding W. Brown to the attendee list). D. Schulz seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. I. Hlohowskyj will provide the revised final minutes to the members for final review and approval before the minutes will be accepted as final and posted to the PDHA website.

3. Treasurer's Report

Gordon Goodman, Treasurer, provided a report on the current FY09 status of PDHA funds. For the period of 1 Nov 2008 through 16 Feb 2009, donations to PDHA totaled \$455.00. Expenditures since 1 Nov 2008 totaled \$662.26, which in 2009 included reimbursement of C. Smart for 12 months of hosting the PDHA website, and payment of the 2009 dues to the Illinois Environmental Council (IEC). The checking balance as of 16 Feb 2009 was \$362.14. The value of the PDHA CD with the Community Bank of Downers Grove (matures on 30 July 2009) as of 16 Feb 2009 is \$2,541.46. Total PDHA assets as of 16 Feb 2009 = \$2,903.60.

There was a short discussion about the value of continued membership in the IEC. It was generally agreed that continued investment in the IEC was appropriate.

I. Hlohowskyj made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; the motion was seconded by J. Amorosi, and was unanimously passed.

4. Upcoming Election Candidate Forums

D. Schulz reported that the Environmental Stewardship group at the 1st Methodist Church of Downers Grove asked him to contact the PDHA and the League of Women Voters about the possibility of jointly hosting a council candidate forum, possibly March 16th or 18th. J. Cavallo asked whether or not the PDHA should take the lead in organizing such a forum and then inviting other groups to join in holding the forum. M. Thoman indicated that the League of Women Voters (LWV) and the DG Chamber of Commerce (COC) were already hosting a candidates forum scheduled for March. Although the previous election forum held by these groups focused on politics and ethics, the small number of candidates and no mayoral race at stake, there might be better opportunity for the forum to address questions from the PDHA. S. Tiegs suggested that this might be a better approach for PDHA to take, given the very short time that would be available to host an additional forum prior to the April election. M. Thoman pointed out that Districts 58 and 99 are planning forums with school district candidates, but unsure if Park District was planning a forum. K. Lerner asked about the format of the forums. M. Thoman described the format as 90-minute events, with each candidate giving a two-minute statement, followed by questions from the LWV and the COC, followed by questions from the public.

D. Schultz suggested that he could represent PDHA and discuss with forum organizers the possibility of including environmental questions. Possible topics identified by PDHA members included the Tree Ordinance, Lyman Woods, the Cool Cities Program, views on global warming, additional bike paths, walkability in the Village.

J. Amorosi asked if PDHA has a position paper regarding a tree ordinance. J. Thoman and K. Lerner indicated no. K. Lerner suggested that given past reactions by the DG Council on the topic, it might be better to focus on a different topic. J. Thoman thought it would be interesting to hear the views of the candidates on the topic. G. Goodman suggested that it would be better to bring the tree ordinance as individuals rather than as the PDHA. Instead, the PDHA questions should focus on current issues such as new building design. W. Brown asked if the Village would support local environmentally friendly zoning issues. J. Amorosi suggested that green buildings should be added as a PDHA objective.

M. Thoman made the motion that the PDHA authorize D. Schulz to contact the LWV and the COC about getting some of the PDHA questions into the Candidates Forum. K. Lerner seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Possible Participation in the Proposed Environmental Coalition

D. Schulz informed the PDHA that the 1st Methodist Church Environmental Stewardship group is reaching out to other local DG organizations regarding the organization of an environmental coalition, and asked if the PDHA would have any interest in participating. Any participation would involve no effort or cost commitments. He also indicated that the purpose of the coalition would be educational. J. Cavallo made a motion that PDHA support the organization of the local environmental coalition being proposed by the 1st Methodist Environmental Stewardship group. M. Thoman seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. TCD3 Participation

M. Thoman presented a brief overview of how the TCD3 would be conducted and how input could be provided. He pointed out that the TCD3 website is especially useful for providing information and also input to the process. M. Thoman and W. Brown, and possibly J. Yoksoulian, indicated that they would attend the next TCD3 meeting.

K. Lerner will contact the TCD3 to find out how it plans to include groups and how individuals without internet access can participate. K. Lerner asked about the possibility of contacting individuals on the PDHA mailing list and encouraging them to participate in the TCD3. G. Goodman stated that there are about 250 mailing addresses on the list, and about 2/3rds of those also have email addresses. D. Schultz suggested sending out an email invitation, asking addressees if they were aware of TCD3 and encouraging them to participate. M. Thoman indicated that the Village is concerned about the low level of sign-up currently for the TCD3..

7. Park District Updates

Controlled Burns. M. Thoman presented a summary of an update provided by Todd Reese of the DG Park District. The Park District was unable, due to weather, to conduct one burn that was scheduled for Lyman Woods last fall. A makeup burn is planned for the spring, in either April or May, weather permitting. The burn would be followed-up by hand seeding in any disturbed areas.

Little Sprouts. G. Goodman indicated that Shannon Forsythe, DGPD, sent a thank you letter to PDHA (with a cc to District 58) regarding its support of the Little Sprouts program. G. Goodman was unsure if District 58 has signed up for Little Sprouts for Spring 2009. M. Thoman asked whether the Education Foundation might be able to provide a grant to support the Little Sprouts Program. G. Goodman was asked about the status of the PDHA resolution/letter to District 58 regarding continued participation in the Little Sprouts program. He indicated that PDHA was waiting to hear from S. Forsythe as to whether she could use our support, and would only send the resolution if she felt she needed the support to encourage continued District 58 participation.

7. Discuss Possible Joint Lecture with Organic Gardening Club

K. Lerner stated that he had been in initial contact with the President of the DG Organic Gardening Club about some type of joint event during the planting season (spring). Further discussions are planned.

8. Other Items

J. Amorosi suggested inviting the new Village Board members out to Lyman Woods. J. Cavallo will add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

G. Goodman and J. Cavallo will draft a get well note for W Runyon, wishing him a speedy recovery.

9. Next Meeting – the next meeting of the PDHA will be held on 15 April 2009.

10. Meeting Adjourned – 8:30 PM