

**Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
September 23, 2009
Lincoln Center**

Draft Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. Present were board members and officers Jim Cavallo, Mark Thoman, Gordon Goodman, John Schofield, Jane Amorosi, Dave Schulz, Ken Lerner, and Jerry Yoksoulian.

2. Budget for Memorial Tree

The group discussed changing the budget for the tree to be planted in memory of Bill Runyon. Two hundred dollars had been approved by the Board at the previous (May 2009) meeting. The Park District indicated to J. Cavallo that a better tree could be obtained for \$300, and J. Cavallo recommended this course of action. A motion to authorize \$300 for the tree passed unanimously. G. Goodman recommended contacting Tim Meaney for contact with the Runyon family.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 2009 meeting were approved with two minor corrections: (a) in item 4, last sentence, should be D. Schulz; (b) in item 5, first sentence, should be Jim Kleinwachter.

4. Donation to Chicago Wilderness Society

The group discussed making a donation to the Chicago Wilderness Society. Three hundred dollars had been allocated to this in the previously-approved budget. The Society has changed its policy on donations and will accept any amount. They will also accept volunteer work from member groups. A motion to donate \$100 was passed unanimously. G. Goodman will execute the donation and will inquire as to volunteer opportunities.

5. Annual Meeting and committees for program and board/officer nominations

J. Yoksoulian, G. Goodman, and J. Schofield volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. J. Cavallo, K. Lerner, and D. Shulz volunteered to serve on the program committee for the annual meeting. The 2009 Annual Meeting was scheduled for December 9th. J. Cavallo will seek Room 503 of the Lincoln Center for the meeting.

The group discussed ideas for the program. Jane Amorosi mentioned that the Historical Society could be honored for its activities in preserving and compiling Downers Grove history. Others expanded on the history theme: one idea would be to invite Bob Jensen to

Speak on DG history, another would be to ask village director of community development Tom Dabareiner to speak about the downtown historical building survey.

Another idea discussed was a tree-related theme. This could be tied in with the Park District's decision to have activities for Arbor Day. Information could be presented about trees in the area such as what are DG's largest, oldest, and most unusual trees. Jane Amorosi mentioned there is an Oak Society who might be able to provide a speaker.

6. Highway pickup

The next pickup date is October 10th. Signup sheets (waiver forms) for volunteers will be available online or by contacting J. Cavallo's office.

7. Report on Environmental Stewardship group at First United Methodist - D. Shulz reported on activities of the Environmental Stewardship group at First United Methodist.

8. Accessible Tree House program

G. Goodman reported on a proposed Accessible Tree House program for Lyman Woods. There will be a Park District staff meeting on Sept. 24 with the national group that designs the treehouses. (Forever Young Treehouses at Treehouses.org.) According to Shannon Forsythe, they are in the preliminary discussion stage now and there will be public discussion before any action is taken. The organization has done other projects in the area. It would not involve tree removal, but rather construction of a structure around a tree. It would provide additional educational space, which is needed at Lyman Woods. The group discussed the idea and agreed to monitor the issue.

9. Impact of Village Infrastructure Projects on trees

Village stormwater and street programs are having an impact on parkway trees, including some robust older trees. Gordon Goodman and Charlie Smart have been working with neighbors and the Village to minimize tree impact along Prairie Ave. near Main St. On Prairie, part of the tree impact came indirectly when street widening required power lines to be moved to conform to state standards. However, the standards contain a "neighborhood appropriateness" exception that can be used to avoid undue impact on trees. M. Thoman also has had discussions with village staff on the issue also; supervision of contractors seems to be a problem. A better approach for the village would be to factor tree impact into project planning from the beginning. J. Schofield and M. Thoman will work on a resolution recommending that the village do more to minimize impact of infrastructure projects on parkway trees.

10. Village Budget Planning J. Schofield mentioned that the Village is prioritizing services in connection with budget planning. There will be a meeting to review priorities on October 3rd. We should track this issue since if services or projects we favor receive a low priority ranking, they may not be funded.

11. Park District Arbor Day event - G. Goodman reported that at the last Park District meeting, staff recommended having an Arbor Day event next year. It appeared to have broad support. A motion was passed unanimously to request the Chairman to write a letter to the Park District supporting this concept and offering our help.

12. Hinsdale/Cook Co. Forest Preserve - G. Goodman also mentioned an issue in Hinsdale where the village is seeking to lease land from the Cook County Forest Preserve for use as a park; this would involve clearing of trees. He will send an email with more information.

13. Historic Landscape Preservation - J. Schofield mentioned that there will be a workshop on historic landscape preservation in Will County on October 2nd.

14. Chicago Suburban Alliance Meeting - K. Lerner mentioned that the Downers Grove Coalition for Managed Redevelopment will be hosting a meeting of the Chicago Suburban Alliance on Saturday, October 24, from 9:00 AM to noon at the Lincoln Center.

Summary of Action Items and Scheduled Events

- J. Cavallo to work with Park District on Bill Runyon memorial tree.
- G. Goodman to execute \$100 donation to Chicago Wilderness Society.
- J. Yoksoulian, G. Goodman, and J. Schofield volunteered to serve on the nominating committee.
- J. Cavallo, K. Lerner, and D. Shulz volunteered to serve on the program committee for the annual meeting. The 2009 Annual Meeting was scheduled for December 9th. [subsequently changed to December 8th]
- J. Schofield and M. Thoman to work on resolution regarding parkway tree protection during village projects.

- October 2nd: Will County historic landscape preservation meeting
- October 3rd: DG Village budget meeting
- October 10th: Highway Cleanup Day
- October 24th: Chicago Suburban Alliance meeting
- December 8th: PDHA Annual Meeting