

Minutes
Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
January 14, 2010

Formal Actions:

Called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Ken Lerner.

Attendance: Jane Amorosi, Wally Brown, Gordon Goodman, Veatrice Jehangir, Ken Lerner, Chris Saricks, John Schofield, Sonja Tiegs, Mark Thoman. Jim Cavallo arrived later. Absent: Ihor Hlohowskyj, Dave Schultz, Charley Smart.

Motion #1. Approval of minutes from previous meeting. Goodman/Saricks. Unanimous.

Motion #2. Approval of treasurer's report. Thoman/Goodman. Unanimous.

Motion #3. Budget for fiscal year 2010. Lerner/Saricks. Approved with reduction of website budget from \$130 to \$100. Unanimous. (See also Motion #6 below.)

Motion #4. Encourage Park District to purchase Nelson Meadow property. Schofield/Saricks. Unanimous.

Motion #5: Schedule highway cleanup days for April 24, June 19, August 21, October 9. Goodman/Lerner. Unanimous.

Motion #6. Amend budget for fiscal year 2010 to add \$100 for materials for outreach programs such as Arbor Day. Goodman/Jehanger. Unanimous. (See also Motion #3 above.)

Motion #7. Authorize treasurer to roll over \$1200 in certificate of deposit for approximately six months, moving the balance to checking account for anticipated expenditures. Goodman/Saricks. Unanimous.

Next meeting set for February 18, 2010.

Adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Discussion of financial matters:

In the past PDHA support of Little Sprouts has been leveraged to encourage donations by other organizations. The budget of \$500 is just a placeholder, pending discussion with Park District.

Benefits of participation in Illinois Environmental Council and Chicago Wilderness Society were discussed. The CWS has redefined their membership structure, providing the opportunity for PDHA to pay a lower annual membership.

At this point no extraordinary Lyman Woods financial needs are anticipated that would require our contribution.

John Schofield suggested web expenditures could be reduced. See Motion #3 above. Gordon Goodman will reimburse Charley Smart but ask that level of web hosting be reduced.

The \$100 budget item for “consultants” is for honoraria for speakers, etc.

Gordon Goodman will pay attorney Boersma for professional services in connection with official registration as budgeted.

Discussion of activities for 2010:

Ken Lerner categorized the organizations activities: (a) donations to other worthy organizations and activities, (b) policy advocacy, (c) public outreach such as newsletters, and (d) direct action such as highway clean-up.

Jane Amorosi spoke for more involvement in the landscape design of Park District and Village projects, and gave the example of Washington Park and the pending redevelopment of Barth Pond. An example of a recent imaginative design in Chicago’s Lincoln Park was given, and Sonja Tieg will try to locate some published materials on it.

Park District acquisition of the Nelson Meadow open space was discussed. See Motion #4 above. Several residents have already contacted Janet Barr, and Tim Meaney plans to appear at next Park District meeting. Gordon Goodman and Ken Lerner will draft a letter to the Park District and coordinate contacts with Park District staff.

Highway clean-up was discussed. See Motion #5 above. Signs with the organization’s name misspelled are in place northbound and southbound Highland Avenue.

Mark Thoman stated that he would repeat his annual photography of Lyman Woods healing and publicize the positive results. It was suggested that he and Wally Brown present the results to local County Forest Preserve Board members, as well as feature in newsletter, etc.

Mark Thoman recommended the board members cull their email address books for Downers Grove residents who might be made aware of PDHA activities, as a precursor to invitations to meetings and eventual contributions. He requested time on the next meeting’s agenda to describe the process in more detail.

Wally Brown mentioned the upcoming St. James Farm event as a possible venue to display PDHA materials and encourage membership. This led to a broader discussion of event planning, and especially the materials that would be needed to participate. See Motion #6 above. Sonja Tieg will prepare a detailed checklist of recommended materials, based on her experiences elsewhere.

Gordon Goodman inquired about planned Arbor Day activities. Ken Lerner will be in contact with the Park District. [Reporter’s note: also the Village forester, annual proclamation, etc.]

Notes compiled by John Schofield, 1/15/2010.