

**Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
18 February 2010
Lincoln Center**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Role Call

Call to Order: 7:07 PM by Ken Lerner

Members Present: Jane Amorosi, Wallace Brown, James Cavallo, Gordon Goodman, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Ken Lerner, Mark Thoman, Chris Saricks, John Schofield

Members Absent: Charley Smart, Sonja Tiegs, David Schulz, Veatrice Jehangir

Guests: None

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A summary of the draft minutes of the 14 Jan 2010 prepared by J. Schofield was provided by K. Lerner. The spelling of J. Cavallo's name was incorrect. G. Goodman made a motion to accept the minutes with the corrected spelling; K. Lerner seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

3. Treasurer's Report

Gordon Goodman, Treasurer, provided a report on the current FY10 status of PDHA funds. The approved 2009-2010 PDHA budget was also distributed to the group. G. Goodman also mentioned that Shannon Forsythe, DGPD, would like to address the group regarding continued financial support for the Little Sprouts Program at Lyman Woods. Based on the current amount of funds available and the approved expenditures, PDHA funding is projected at -\$405.00, indicating the likely need for fundraising activities. C. Saricks made a motion to approve the report; M. Thoman seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

4. Report on Nelson Meadows

K. Lerner reported that a letter from PDHA was sent to the Park District about purchase of the property for Village green space, and that PDHA provided verbal comments to the Park Board regarding disposition of Nelson Meadows. M. Thoman reported that the auction for the property, originally scheduled for 18 Feb 2010 has been postponed. The Park Board indicated to G. Goodman that it is interested in the Nelson Meadows property.

5. Village Comprehensive Plan Preliminary Vision Statement

M. Thoman distributed a copy of the Village's Comprehensive Plan preliminary vision statement (VS). Several members thought the preliminary VS is unwieldy with considerable overlap among issues. J. Schofield thought that the lumping of issues within the VS makes it difficult to involve PDHA's issues. He felt that the VS is weak on open space and parks development, and there is no mention of either Belmont Prairie or Lyman Woods. C. Saricks suggested that PDHA insert specific language to include those two areas. K. Lerner asked about the actual role of the VS. J. Cavallo indicated that the Village staff would use the VS to justify their activities.

G. Goodman stated that the VS should provide planning, conservation, and development opportunities for the entire community, not just for Village functions. G. Goodman suggested that the PDHA help M. Thoman with draft alternative statements that would include functions and goals beyond just those of the Village. M. Thoman stated that in a meeting, the Village seemed to indicate that the current VS is too long, and asked if PDHA members on suggestions on how the VS could/should be revised. J. Schofield pointed out that the PDHA doesn't have the authority to rewrite the VS, but could write to the Village Comprehensive Plan Committee pointing out that the current VS is lacking in the areas of historic preservation and unique natural environments. PDHA members were asked to send M. Thoman their suggestions for revising the VS, and then J. Schofield can put these ideas into a formal letter to the Village Comprehensive Plan Committee. J. Schofield will prepare a draft letter and distribute to the PDHA members for review.

6. Rain Barrels

M. Thoman provided information on a rain barrel sale that is sponsored by the Village. The sale is scheduled for 8 May 2010, with the Village taking orders from mid-March through April. The Village has indicated that it is looking for volunteers to help load cars and explain benefits of rain barrels, and thus this would be a good opportunity for PDHA to become involved. G. Goodman suggested that the Village should contact the Conservation Foundation for assistance. M. Thoman will get back to the Village regarding PDHA support.

7. Fire Station Rain Garden

M. Thoman has been in touch with the Village and Public Works regarding a Public Works proposal to develop a rain garden behind the Fire Station at Highland and 39th. Mark will arrange for a meeting with Public Works, while I. Hlohowskyj will solicit involvement by the Downers Grove Organic Gardeners club.

8. Email Networking

M. Thoman provided an overview of email networking as an approach for increasing public awareness of PDHA, and suggested PDHA members to come up with a list of 20 individuals and send them an email about PDHA and that they may be receiving future emails about important issues in the Village. A discussion followed that included the intended purpose of such emailings, setting up a PDHA Facebook page, sources of names to receive the emailings, and whether some folks might be put off being told they will be receiving future unsolicited emails from the group. J. Schofield pointed out that the PDHA does not have a marketing plan. There was general consensus for members to compile a list of environmentally-interested acquaintances and send emails to them. The idea of developing a PDHA marketing plan was shelved to a future meeting. G. Goodman and J. Schofield will meet to develop a marketing committee.

9. Arbor Day Activities

K. Lerner discussed Park District (PD) plans for celebrating Arbor Day, 30 April, with a free tree giveaway. The PD is planning on distributing about 1,200 oak seedlings (4 species) through the local elementary schools (public and parochial), PD facilities, and the Little Sprouts program at Lyman Woods. The PD hopes this becomes an annual event. K. Lerner and the PD met and discussed how PDHA might help this event. Possibilities included helping develop informational literature (e.g., planting instructions), either by contributing content, reviewing draft materials, or helping with production. A conference call was scheduled for 22 Feb 2010 with the PD, PDHA, and Morton Arboretum to discuss this event. G. Goodman suggested that PDHA could help staffing a table at the Library for distributing seedlings.

10. Spring Newsletter

K. Lerner discussed the need for articles for the next newsletter. Article topics brought up by the group included: the April 24th cleanup day, rain barrels, rain gardens, the PD Arbor Day activities, the Village Comprehensive Plan, the Blodgett House, and a Lyman Woods update (would be provided by S. Forsythe of the PD). G. Goodman informed the group that to meet a mailing date of 17 April, he would need articles by no later than 1 April. Articles to be prepared will be on rain barrels/rain garden (Hlohowskyj/Thoman); Arbor Day/Lyman Woods update (Lerner); Village Comprehensive Plan (Schofield); Blodgett House Update (Goodman/Smart)

11. New Business

There was no new business.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was set for 25 March 2010. G. Goodman will reserve the meeting room at the Lincoln Center.

13. Action Items

1. All PDHA members will provide comments on the preliminary vision statement to all PDHA members. John Schofield will prepare a draft letter incorporating the items raised by PDHS members.
2. Mark Thoman will contact the Village to discuss possible PDHA support and cooperation for the 'rain barrel' program, and also to suggest potential partnering with the Conservation Foundation. Mark will also contact the Conservation Foundation about interest in providing possible assistance to the Village in the rain barrel program.
3. Mark Thoman and Ihor Hlohowskyj will coordinate planning for rain garden support to the Village Fire Department.
4. All PDHA members to develop a short list of 'environmentally-minded' friends and contacts and send them a friendly email introducing them to PDHA and offering to provide them with occasional email updates of important activities.
5. Gordon Goodman, John Schofield, and Mark Thoman have formed a 'marketing' committee and will examine possible approaches for marketing PDHA to the DG community.
6. Several members to provide articles to Gordon Goodman for inclusion in the next newsletter:

M. Thoman/I. Hlohowskyj	rain barrels/gardens
K. Lerner	Info on PD Arbor Day plans
J. Schofield	update on the Village Comprehensive Plan
G. Goodman/C. Smart	Update on Blodgett House

K. Lerner will also contact Shannon Forsythe, DGPD, about possible article on recent events at Lyman Woods.
7. G. Goodman will make arrangements to reserve a room for the next PDHA meeting, 25 March.

14. Meeting Adjourned – I. Hlohowskyj made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. C. Saricks seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.