

**Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance**  
**20 October 2011**  
**Lincoln Center Room 202**

**Draft of Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

*Call to Order:* 7:20 p.m. by Chair Ken Lerner

*Directors Present:* Jane Amorosi, Wallace Brown, Gordon Goodman, Ken Lerner, Chris Saricks, David Schultz, and Mark Thoman

*Directors Absent:* James Cavallo, Sonja Tiegs Ebel, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Veatrice Jehangir, John Schofield, and Charley Smart

*Quorum satisfied :* **Yes**

**2. Review and Approval of Minutes of 7/28/11 Meeting**

Mark Thoman moved and David Schultz seconded that the minutes of the meeting of 28 July 2011 be approved as amended during prior discussion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Mark Thoman moved and Wallace Brown seconded that the Treasurer's report be approved as presented, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**4. Planning for Annual Meeting and Fall Newsletter**

**a. Annual meeting (12/8, 7 p.m., Lincoln Center Room 503) speakers/recognitions**

Because the Village has been very pro-active in moving forward with green and environmentally sensitive initiatives such as design of the Second Street stormwater retention area and the Green Streets program, M. Thoman suggested that Andy Sikich of DPW would be an appropriate and timely speaker at the annual meeting. G. Goodman, who thought discussion could also include progress on the stormwater management utility generally, endorsed this idea. In fact, because many members of the Public Works staff had demonstrated exemplary environmental leadership over the course of the past year, the idea that staff should receive the PDHA environmental achievement award for 2011 was strongly endorsed by the Board. This recommendation, along with the solicitation of one or more speakers from the Village staff for the Annual Meeting, was sent forward for consideration by the Village Environmental Review Board **as well as for action by Chair Lerner**. Results of these efforts would be reported at the next regular meeting. **An official Board meeting will also precede the Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m.**

M. Thoman observed that it was expected the Village Council would approve incentives to owners of large commercial and industrial properties for drainage improvements on their site, but that residential properties would not (currently) qualify. He then suggested that runoff abatement measures (both commercial and residential property) could be the top agenda priority for a PDHA publicity campaign in 2012.

G. Goodman reported that, pursuant to the Village Council's revisiting of the historic preservation ordinance and potential tax abatement advances for owners of historic property, the

survey of village neighborhoods outside the central area in order to identify more of such properties would go forward in 2012. J. Amorosi commented that, at present, owners of these (residential) properties may not be actual occupants, but are renting them out with the objective of keeping them in place (i.e., no “teardown” plans); however it was not known if these rents provide adequate remuneration for upkeep expenses.

This discussion prompted M. Thoman to propose that Tom Dabareiner, who helped spearhead TCD3 through to adoption without sacrifice of its environmental and historic preservation components, also be invited to speak at the Annual Meeting about the TCD3 process and its ultimate success as well as the residential survey plan, and that he could be a co-recipient of an environmental achievement award. Any award announcement should be included in press releases issued to the Suburban *Trib* and *Downers Grove Patch*. **Chair Lerner will follow up with Village officials to attempt to procure speakers and identify other attendees of an official capacity.**

**b. Search committee for Board and Officers**

G. Goodman and C. Saricks will assume the responsibility of determining by the next meeting the continuation status/desire of current Board members and possible identification of new Board candidates (potentially as assisted in the latter regard by T. Kulat) for 2012. Goodman and Lerner suggested that the Board consider creation of an “emeritus” status for members who have for various reasons been unable to attend recent meetings but whose absence would not count against the by-laws requirement for a quorum. The views and voices of these emeritus members would still be welcomed in the PDHA forums.

**c. Fall newsletter key deadline dates and articles (content)**

G. Goodman would like to have copy in hand by 12 November. Each piece should have about a 150-word limit. Suggested topics include TCD3 (Thoman), electricity supply aggregations (D. Schultz), Little Sprouts 2011 program (C. Saricks), annual meeting date with village award announcement (K. Lerner), Blodgett House status update (C. Smart/G. Goodman), and notes on the recycling extravaganza (M. Thoman/J. Cavallo). Photos will also be welcome. Notice of the meeting should also be posted on our website (Goodman) and Facebook (Thoman).

**4. Little Sprouts Program and Bill Runyon Memorial at Lyman Woods**

PDHA should receive from Shannon Forsythe and staff a précis (hopefully with photos!) about the 2011 Little Sprouts program, which will be wrapping up shortly. It is expected to be in hand in time for a brief summary to be included in the fall newsletter. Meanwhile, the deteriorating condition of the white oak planted at Lyman Woods in memory of Bill Runyon is a matter of some concern, but G. Goodman agreed with Shannon in her reply on this issue to PDHA that the Alliance needs to take a more direct role in keeping the tree free from being overgrown by adjacent vegetation. It is anticipated that we can do this in conjunction with our cleanup days on Highland Avenue.

**5. Recent /Ongoing/Future Activities**

**a. Recycle Extravaganza**

M. Thoman reported that once again the Village Recycling Extravaganza conducted on September 20, in which he and J. Cavallo participated as workers, was a smashing success—so much so (at least with respect to electronic ware) that the Village will begin accepting electronics for recycling behind Village Hall on the first Mondays of each month. The final

disposition of the electronic components was discussed, but there is currently no information about the fate of unrecoverable scrap from, say, personal computers and peripherals.

**b. Highway cleanup 2012 dates**

Dates in 2012 corresponding to the four Saturdays worked in 2011 are 21 April, 16 June, 18 August, and 6 October. There being general agreement that these dates would work out, **the Chair indicated that he would attempt to finalize them with Public Works.**

**c. North High project/improvements**

There will be an Open House for the local neighborhood hosted by District 99 on October 27 at North High to present and discuss Phase Two of the outdoor master site plan, including the removal of residential site properties and plans for restoration and protection of the tree canopy in the landscaping of the parking area and adjacent facilities serving the football field. M. Thoman was happy to report that the plan calls for most trees to be spared and that pervious paving materials would be used in the parking lot. A student committee of North High attendees has been formed to contribute recommendations to the landscaping scheme. Altogether it appears that the selected planning approach recognizes and resolves most of the concerns PDHA had raised regarding this project.

**d. Oak park Green Energy electricity supply program**

D. Schultz briefly outlined the electrical supply aggregation program that (now) 20 communities in Illinois have voted to adopt pursuant to both the state's electricity supply choice legislation and the desire to utilize green (i.e., renewable-source) electricity. Oak Park is the most recent community to adopt such a system, offered by Integris Energy (contact: Rich Spilky), in which some proportion of supply will be from renewables. But renewable energy credits are available for *all* supply (i.e., the green energy generated is going SOMEWHERE, if not necessarily to the client community at all times) on a village-wide basis for opt-ins to this program. Schultz suggested that PDHA advocate that the Village consider this green pathway option. Meanwhile, irrespective of local government participation, individual DG consumers may switch to a renewable energy provider (even though they would still be ComEd/Exelon customers for transmission and delivery) by signing up for one at the Plug-in Illinois web site.

**6. Next Meeting and Adjournment**

There being no additional items introduced, the date for the next meeting was set as 7 p.m., Thursday, 10 November in Lincoln Center. Saricks moved and Thoman seconded meeting adjournment, which was followed by unanimous approval: Chair Lerner declared the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Chris Saricks, Secretary*