

**Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
27 January 2011
Lincoln Center Room 203**

**Meeting Minutes
Approved February 24, 2011**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Call to Order: 7:12 p.m. by Chair Ken Lerner

Directors Present: Jane Amorosi, Wallace Brown, Gordon Goodman, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Ken Lerner, Chris Saricks, John Schofield, David Schultz, and Mark Thoman

Directors Absent: James Cavallo, Sonja Tiegs Ebel, Veatrice Jehangir, and Charley Smart

Quorum satisfied : Yes

2. Review and Approval of Minutes of 12/08/10 Annual Meeting

Wally Brown moved and Gordon Goodman seconded that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 8 December 2010 be approved subject to the modification requested by M. Thoman that the name of Greg José be added to the list of guests. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer G. Goodman reported that the record of income and expenditures has been modified to reflect the Alliance's fiscal year (1 January – 31 December) as codified in the by-laws. Thus, the full year report for the fiscal year ending 12/31/10 shows a cash (checking account) balance of \$792.02 and a CD maturing 3/30/12 with a balance of \$1,209.23, resulting in a total of \$2,001.25 in assets as compared to \$2,140.30 as of 12/31/09. The net draw-down is due to a combination of reduced small cash contributions in 2010 relative to 2009 (possibly a combined effect of the poor economy and lack of "flashpoint" environmental or preservation issues attracting community attention), and an outlay for programs such as Little Sprouts and memberships in Chicago Wilderness Society and Illinois Environmental Council, which will also continue in 2011.

G. Goodman moved and I. Hlohowskyj seconded that the Treasurer's report be approved as presented, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. Discussion of (Draft) FY 2011 Budget

Given that small FY2010 donations were down relative to earlier years, J. Schofield and C. Saricks suggested that we capitalize more emphatically on our ties with civic initiatives such as Little Sprouts—for example, including more information about PDHA in the Little Sprouts literature distributed to District 58 and parochial school teachers and parents. With respect to specific budget items, M. Thoman suggested that \$60 be restored to the FY2011 to cover legal services (which will still be needed) while the combined budget for Little Sprouts

and honoraria be reduced to \$1,000 total. It was also suggested that the Chicago Wilderness Society dues budget be reduced to \$100, since the bill for FY2010 membership will not come due until early in 2012. These adjustments would still leave the budget with a net deficit of \$455 (which can be covered by cash reserves or, as necessary, liquidation of our CD for which Community Bank would not charge us a penalty).

J. Schofield moved and M. Thoman seconded that the budget be approved as amended. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

5. Approval of Specific Outlays

Despite their inclusion in the approved budget, it was noted that payment of the Chicago Wilderness Society and Illinois Environmental Council dues customarily required separate approval by the Board. Thoman so moved, Saricks seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The invoice from attorney from Attorney Boersma (\$60) also was approved, as moved by Chair K. Lerner, seconded by J. Schofield, and unanimously carried by voice vote.

6. Prospective Activities/Initiative for 2011

The first new business item entertained was a suggestion by J. Schofield that the number of PDHA Board meetings in 2011 could be increased to between 6 and 9 in order to accommodate expected increases in agenda items during the year. This suggestion was taken under advisement with the proviso that the Treasurer would contact Lincoln Center regarding the need for additional meeting room availability.

D. Schultz then informed the Board of the new initiative undertaken by the Methodist Church to reduce the carbon footprint of parishioner families acting individually and collectively by means of a point-scoring system (like Weight Watchers?) that credits carbon- and energy-reduction measures large and small. He suggested that this was an idea that PDHA could introduce to its own literature distribution list and perhaps later, through the Village Council, to the community at large. The Chair requested that Dave bring additional information on the final plan and program to the next (February) Board meeting to promote discussion on PDHA's involvement and perhaps take a vote on specific supportive action measures.

PDHA will again be involved in the Arbor Day activities organized by the Park District and the interpretive center, and the Chair expects to have more details by the February meeting about our role. It is anticipated that our participation will involve the same or very similar duties as in prior years. Also, M. Thoman indicated that the Village would be sponsoring another rain barrel sale this year; Wannemaker's likely supplying the barrels, with the possibility that a portion of the proceeds will be distributed to the participating worker organizations. Again, more details on the specific sale and its logistics should be available by the February meeting, at which the Board will finalize its participation arrangements.

Green Streets and Cool Cities initiatives in the region were mentioned, and the desire for more information about more proactive participation in these activities could be obtained. J. Schofield observed that it would be useful to obtain information on just how Downers Grove stacks up against other communities in DuPage County with respect to per-capita energy use

and water conservation. If the Village isn't scoring very well in those areas, the fact could prove a useful prompt for more active conservation initiatives.

V. Jehangir had suggested that PDHA identify opportunities for Styrofoam recycling in the Village; at present, Alliance does not collect Styrofoam as part of its recycling contract. The difficulties of Styrofoam reduction and re-use were cited, especially at large recycling facilities like the one in Alsip, but Styrofoam re-use is occurring in some applications and it was felt that Downers (possibly with PDHA help) could do more to promote this.

With the campaigns for mayor and council ongoing, J. Schofield and M. Thoman suggested that the Board prepare a list of questions germane to PDHA's mission that could be put to candidates during the candidate forums that will precede election day (e.g., that sponsored by the League of Women Voters). Schofield agreed to draft such a set. It was generally agreed that we need to make ourselves known to and better recognized by those who will soon ascend/be re-elected to Commissioner positions. A key element of strategy for PDHA going forward might be to underscore for decision-makers the positive link between historic preservation and economic development, with respect to both community desirability and reduction in total energy requirements. Geneva is a community that has had useful experience with this, and Chair Lerner said he would contact the Director of the Geneva Historical Museum to inquire whether he/she could speak at an upcoming Board meeting about the preservation-development links and Geneva's experience.

The 2011 Highland Avenue clean-up dates have been set (all are Saturdays). They are:

23 April (alternate: 30 April)
18 June (alternate 25 June)
20 August (alternate 27 August)
8 October (alternate 15 October).

7. Adjournment

There being no additional items introduced, the date for the next meeting was (tentatively) set for Thursday, 24 February, pending meeting room availability at Lincoln Center. Saricks moved and W. Brown seconded meeting adjournment, the motion carried unanimously, and Chair Lerner officially adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Saricks, Secretary