

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
<http://www.pdha.org>
Regular Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes
Room 202, Lincoln Center
March 30, 2005

Attendance: Jane Amorosi, Laurel Bowen, James Cavallo, Aspasia Colias, Gordon Goodman, Matt LeCren, Bill Runyon, Charley Smart, Buzz Whowell, Jerry Yoksoulian (Quorum present)
Absent: Lee Forsythe, Ken Lerner, Kathleen Panek, Dave Schulz, Mark Sklair
Guests: Wayne Lela, Jan Smart, Barbara Murphy, Jan Sleeter, DG Park District, Alice Eastman, DG Park District, Wally Brown, DuPage County Forest Preserve,

Meeting called to order by Chair Gordon Goodman at 7:08 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for Special February 16, 2005 were approved as written. The next meeting is scheduled for June 29th.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance: \$3,648.92. 1 donation totaling \$50 was received. The current balance is \$3,698.92. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Mission Statement: The subcommittee consisting of Gordon Goodman, Jim Cavallo, Aspasia Colias, and Bill Runyon developed a PDHA mission statement for review and approval. The recommended revision included renumber the existing Articles of the PDHA Bylaws in order to add a new Article I MISSION STATEMENT to PDHA Bylaws as follows: Section 1. Mission Statement: The mission of Pierce Downers Heritage Alliance is to promote appreciation and protection of the natural and cultural heritage of Downers Grove through education, advocacy and community outreach. The Alliance is committed to the preservation of our community's outstanding natural features, such as Lyman Woods and Belmont Prairie, as well as our significant cultural traditions, including our rich architectural heritage. The group approved this amendment of the Bylaws. A corresponding amendment to PDHA Articles of Incorporation was also considered. The following rewording was proposed for item (iii) in Article 4, "(iii) preserving the ability of the general public to enjoy and appreciate, the natural and cultural heritage of the community of Downers Grove as exemplified by Lyman Woods and the associated mature woodlands, wetlands, meadows and prairie as well as historic homes and neighborhoods in the vicinity of Downers Grove, in DuPage County, Illinois". This rewording of PDHA Articles of Incorporation was approved. Next, the cost to file a change to Articles of Incorporation was discussed. PDHA Attorney David Boersma had offered to file these changes with the Illinois Secretary of State for a total cost of \$200. Following this discussion of the cost of filing approval of the rewording of the Articles of Incorporation was rescinded.

Website: Charley Smart is working on links for the website. The mission statement changes to the Bylaws will be made on the website. A Heritage Quiz was suggested.

Redevelopment Activities: Village Meetings about Curtiss Block Redevelopment held March 19 and about the overall Residential Redevelopment held on March 23 were discussed. Gordon Goodman reported the DG Environmental Concerns Commission has been working with the Village Forester and other village staff on a proposed tree preservation ordinance. The proposal would strengthen protection of parkway trees during construction projects. It also would require measures to inventory and protect trees during residential addition or redevelopment projects, but would only apply while building permit is open. Any redevelopment project adding over 600 sq. ft. would require a tree inventory and a tree conservation plan, to be approved by the Forester. Tree removal would require a permit. The Village Council has scheduled this proposal for consideration by at its April 5 meeting. Jim Cavallo and Gordon Goodman volunteered to follow up on redevelopment activities.

Mercury Emissions: Dave Schulz stated the proposed new USEPA regulations for mercury emissions from coal burning power plants were issued on March 15. He stated that proposed "Clear Skies" legislation and EPA proposed regulations would weaken current federal requirements and would not significantly curtail mercury emissions from power plants. The resolution approved by PDHA on the February 16, 2005 asks for a stricter standard to reduce mercury emissions by 90% by 2010. Environmental mercury has proven adverse health effects and particularly affects Illinois, which has several coal burning power plants. Nine states have sued to overturn/alter rules as it weakens current controls of original (1980) clean air act modified in 90s. Petition will request Attorney General Madigan to argue for roll-back to preserve previous rules. Motion passed.

Forest Preserve: Forest Preserve Commission W. Brown spoke about indoor pool property variance request on Lee Avenue that was considered and tabled by the Zoning Board of Appeals on March 23. Issues include: endangered species, encroachment into Maple Grove; N/S vs. E/W orientation of pool. Maple Grove is a Class 4 area – highest rating – due to mature Maple trees and other high quality plants. W. Brown sent a letter to Forest Preserve Director Manning and Chairman Dewey Pierotti about the importance of protecting Forest Preserves from encroachments. A conservation easement should be encouraged and provided for residents.

Lyman Woods: A. Eastman reported on streambank project. Topographic survey (37 acres) will be completed from north side at 31st St to south of the oak kame to aid in determining best management practices. North end is more sensitive.

Remote photographic observation of redtail hawks' and great horned owls' nestings near Interpretive Center was proposed for investigation. Charley and Gordon volunteered to work out details.

Coordination of groups to contribute to natural areas in Park District was suggested. Erosion control and reconstructed wetlands could be featured for promotional purposes.

Work Days Lyman Woods 4/9 and 4/16 – Garlic Mustard eradication

Belmont Prairie – May 15

May 7 – International migratory bird Day hikes

April 4 – May 6 – Gym shoes collection

Meeting adjourned 9:45 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar:

Village Council: Meets every Tuesday at Village Hall: 6:30 p.m.

Park District: meets first (Lincoln Center) and third (Village Hall) Thursday: 7 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals: April 27

Arbor Day: April 29

Highway Clean-up Days: 4/23, 6/11, 10/8

Websites of Interest:

www.pdha.org

www.greenfund.com

www.environmentaldefense.org

www.ilenviro.org

www.downersgrovewatch.org

www.earthshare.org

Next Meeting Wednesday, June 29 - 7:00 p.m. in Lincoln Center, Room 202

Respectfully submitted ~ Laurel Q. Bowen