

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
<http://www.pdha.org>
Minutes of Special Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting
Room 307, Lincoln Center
October 5, 2005

Attendance: Jane Amorosi, James Cavallo, Aspasia Colias, Gordon Goodman, Ken Lerner, William (Buzz) Whowell and Jerry Yoksoulion

Absent: Laurel Bowen, Lee Forsythe, Matt LeCren, Bill Runyon, Dave Schulz, Mark Sklair and Charley Smart

Guests: Bill Wrobel

Meeting called to order by Chair Gordon Goodman at 7:24 p.m.

Although the meeting was announced as a special board meeting, a quorum of the fourteen Board members was not present. Therefore, the seven directors who were present held a meeting as a Committee of the Whole.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for September 14, 2005 were reviewed and two changes were noted: Ken Lerner was incorrectly listed as present at the meeting, and the first sentence of Alice Eastman's report on Lyman Woods was corrected. With those changes, Jerry moved and Aspasia seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance: \$3,436.10 on September 12, 2005. Only one transaction occurred since then. A \$5.00 fee was paid to the Illinois Secretary of State as a filing fee for the 2005 Annual Report. The current balance of assets is \$3,431.10 as of October 1, 2005. Jerry moved and Aspasia seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted. The motion passed.

Lyman Woods & Belmont Prairie: Both natural areas are recovering well after a tough summer. Buzz mentioned there was a car that went through Belmont Prairie. The driver was arrested. Gordon said that he would inquire about damage to the prairie.

Gordon said that Alice Eastman wants to look at and update the management plan for the Belmont Prairie Buffer sometime soon.

Gilbert Street Sidewalk: Gordon said that the DG Village Council has accepted a bid for the work. Also the village has an agreement in principal with the DuPage Forest Preserve about intergovernmental cooperation on the sidewalk right of way. As a result, it would appear that the sidewalk construction is going ahead. The question was asked whether we should make a statement opposing the action. The general sentiment was that it was too far along to change the project.

Midwestern University: Gordon discussed a proposal by Midwestern University to build a couple of new buildings on the east side of their campus. It was felt that there would be no impact on Lyman Woods. Gordon said that he will continue to follow the progress of the project.

Appointment of Nominating Committee: We discussed the need for a nominating committee for the board and officers in the coming year. A committee was chosen with Jerry as chair and Ken, Buzz, and Jane as committee members. They will look at both the board and the PDHA officers. They were asked to report back by the 1st week in November.

PDHA Annual Meeting: We discussed the program of the upcoming annual meeting. Room 503 at Lincoln Center has been reserved for 7 PM on November 30th. An Annual Meeting Program Committee was appointed consisting of Gordon, Laurie, and Jim. Several ideas were

offered for a possible program. These ideas included: inviting Forest Preserve President Dewey Perotti to discuss intergovernmental relations for preservation of Lyman Woods, and inviting a speaker on Global Climate Change and its impact on plants and natural areas in this region.

Downers Grove Redevelopment Issues: We discussed redevelopment issues. It was pointed out that Hinsdale has an ordinance restricting buildings to 25% of surface space of property and restricting impervious surfaces to no more than 40% of surface space. We discussed proposing these as ideas for ordinances in Downers Grove. It was also pointed out that the village council passed a resolution almost one year ago to appoint a design review board. No board has yet been appointed. We then discussed the need to improve the process of demolition permits.

From this discussion a motion was made that PDHA advocate for the following 5 points:

- Impervious surfaces should not exceed 40% of surface area of homes
- Consideration should be given to limiting building footprints to 25% of surface area
- Trees should be protected on private property during the construction period
- A mechanism is needed to provide for neighbor and community input on potential changes to neighborhood character, such as new construction and teardowns
- Improvements are needed in the process by which demolition permits are granted.

This motion was made by Jim and seconded by Ken. The motion passed. Gordon, Ken, Dave Schulz, and Jim will collaborate on writing a letter on this topic.

Activities of D G Coalition for Managed Redevelopment: We next heard an update on the DG Coalition for Managed Redevelopment. The Coalition now has its own website host for its internet site: www.DGCMR.org. It was noted that the DG Watch has withdrawn from the Coalition as an organization, but the people on the Coalition steering committee are continuing their participation. We also heard that Gordon and Ken are sensitive to potential threats to the 501 (c) 3 status of PDHA. They see their current work as education and will take appropriate action if a threat develops. People will, nevertheless, continue as individuals to pursue the goals of the Coalition.

Bill Wrobel read an editorial from the DG Report that expressed ideas shared by many of us regarding redevelopment that is sensitive to cultural heritage and good environmental stewardship.

Bill Wrobel, who is a Director of DG Watch as well as Treasurer of the Coalition, gave his analysis of the relationship between DG Watch and the Coalition.

Meeting adjourned 9:55 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.

Highway Cleanup and Belmont Work Day: October 8

Lyman Woods Work Day: Oct 22, Nov 5

PDHA 10th Annual Meeting: Oct 30, 2005

Websites of Interest: www.PDHA.org www.greenfund.com
www.environmentaldefense.org www.DGCMR.org
www.downersgrovewatch.org www.earthshare.org
www.ilenviro.org

Next PDHA Meeting Wednesday, November 30, 2005 - 7:00 p.m. in Lincoln Center, Room 503

Draft minutes prepared by Jim Cavallo and Gordon Goodman 10-7-2005