

**PIONEERS' CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES
SMURTHWAITE HOUSE/WEBEX**

Thursday, April 6, 2023

PCA Board Members Present:

Smurthwaite House

Patty Gault, President
Cindy Lee, Vice President
Ed Dobbins, Historian
Donna Carr
Kim Kasper
Sterling Foster
Mark Lamm
Vicki Galli

Webex

Jenn Merry (Board)
Margy Parisella (Advisor)
Pamela Stewart (Advisor)

PCA Members Present:

Denise Foster

Lezlee Alexander
Vivia Strang

PCA Board Members absent:

Val Wilson, Treasurer
Debe Branning
Marshall Shore (Advisory)
Judy Smith (Advisory)
Ryan Vander Ark (Advisory)

Discussion/Action

Call to Order: President Patty Gault called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Approval of March 2nd Minutes: President Patty Gault

- a. Minutes accepted as presented to Board

Treasurer's Report: Patty Gault, President

- a. Beginning Balance -- \$25,889.07
- b. Ending Balance -- \$26,931.07
- c. The Corporation Commission Report and the 990-N Tax Document have been filed

OLD BUSINESS

Officer Position -- Secretary position still open for term ending in 2024. Let Patty know if anyone is interested so it can be put on the agenda for next month's Board meeting.

Memorial Day – Steve Schumacher, City of Phoenix Historian, will be on hand to give a short talk. Patty Gault will reach out to the Masons to do a flag ceremony and other groups will be asked to assist in putting flags out on the markers and other needs. We need volunteers for set up/take down. The Memorial Day Committee are also looking for someone to play TAPS.

Bench at Porter Cemetery – We have received a check for \$1,600 from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) to begin the process of obtaining and installing a memory bench in remembrance of the John W. Owen, Grand Army of the Republic, Post No. 5. The bench will be a 6 foot, Wabash (aka Marge West bench), with a plaque. It will need to be reset in brick.

Hayden Materials – Jenn Merry said the Hayden materials are now at the Arizona Historical Society along with the McClellan Mortuary records and AL Moore & Sons records. PCA members have volunteered to help Jenn go through the collection. She will let us know when we can get started.

Jacob Waltz Plaque -- Donna Carr suggested changes in the wording and will send the suggested edits to Vivia Strang. Donna also suggested putting the reference song in smaller font on the plaque. PCA 2023 will be placed in the lower left corner. Kim Kasper motioned to accept the plaque as edited; Cindy Lee seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Memorial Marker Changes – It was determined that the 8x8 markers looked insignificant placed in the cemeteries as is. Sterling Foster made a prototype to place the 8x8 marker into a 14 x 10.5 frame. It will be placed in the center, slightly raised and embedded in concrete. He used the Henry Garfias marker as the first one to show the board for approval. There was no need to vote. The committee will reach out to a retired City of Phoenix employee who has helped with the installation of markers for assistance.

Membership – Lezlee Alexander and Kim Kasper concurred that we have 81 members.

Women in History – Patty Gault and Val Wilson gave a presentation to DAR, Anasazi Chapter, on Women in History on March 18th.

Sotelo Heard – Progress is slow. The PCA subcommittee is hoping to meet with the development architect, Selena Martinez, soon and get an update on the land.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 22nd – Open House

C.A.R Tour -- Lezlee Alexander is bringing the Hallie Orme Thomas C.A.R. group to the Smurthwaite House and cemeteries for a tour on our Open House on April 22nd. They plan on replacing a plaque that the group had placed in Loosley Cemetery years back due to it being weathered and hard to read. They will let us know when they have the replacement plaque.

Brooch Making – May 6th – This is a fundraiser event, RSVPs and tickets on sale. We need to put a flyer on our PCA Facebook page and include info in our next email to members.

Selina Demmert – PCA are expecting a visit today from Selina Demmert. She is the liaison to the City of Phoenix and Joe Diaz's assistant.

Access to Cemeteries for Tours – On March 30th we had an impromptu meeting with the owner/operator of Spirit of AZ Tours on the possibility of including our cemeteries on his tours. Jarrod says he gives tours every day and has various location packages for his clients to choose from. Jarrod is aware of our accessibility only on Thursdays and certain Open House times. He would need someone from the PCA to open and close the cemeteries for him as we will not give him access to a key. He is okay with the limitations. He has his own insurance. We will need to have a committee to discuss this and other aspects of tours to create a new form to include restrictions and stress the importance of safety. The City of Phoenix would need to be notified that we are possibly going to have tours on a regular basis. PCA would receive a percentage of what he charges. We will need to discuss the percentage amount and include in our form. We plan to work on and discuss this again in the fall.

Meeting with Joe Diaz – A Webex meeting with Joe Diaz is scheduled for April 26th.

Donation – We will be receiving \$500 from SRP due to Ileen Snoddy's volunteering with the PCA.

History of Pioneers' & Military Memorial Park – Ed Dobbins has been working on a report of our seven cemeteries and the PCA. He has found a great deal of information in our files here in the Smurthwaite House. A newspaper article written by James Barney in 1941, 1992 archeological investigations by K.J. Schroeder and compilations of biographies by Derek Horne in 2018 have all helped Ed in his research. He is asking all of us to read his document and help participate in getting this written. He is still working on this project.

April 19th – Jenn Merry will be giving a presentation at the Burton Barr Library on Wednesday, April 19th at 5 p.m. called Pioneer Cemetery and Archives. It's about researching early pioneers.

Quarterly Report – Please submit your volunteer hours to Denise so we can submit our quarterly numbers. All hours are appreciated and helpful.

Meeting adjourned 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Foster

Meeting with the City of Phoenix Parks & Recs at house on April 13th, 9:30 a.m.

Newsletter Dates 2023: May 27 – June Newsletter

August 26 – September Newsletter

November 25 – December Newsletter