

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

Thursday, January 5, 2023

PCA Board Members present:

Smurthwaite House

Patty Gault, President
Debe Branning
Donna Carr
Kim Kasper
Sterling Foster
Mark Lamm
Donna Carr
Vicki Galli

Webex

Jenn Merry
Cindy Lee, Vice-President
Val Wilson, Treasurer
Ileen Snoddy, Secretary

PCA Board Members absent:

Ed Dobbins, Historian

PCA Advisory Board Members present:

Webex

Pamela Stewart
Margy Parisella
Judy Smith
Lance Gray

PCA Advisory Board Members absent:

Marshall Shore
Frank Barrios
Ryan Vander Ark

PCA Members present:

Smurthwaite House

Denise Foster

Webex

Lezlee Alexander
Vivia Strang

Discussion/Action

Call to order: President Patty Gault called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Approval of December 1, 2022 Minutes: Minutes accepted as presented

Treasurers Report: Val Wilson, Treasurer

- a. Beginning Balance - \$29,957.69
- b. Ending Balance - \$30,321.86

Val talked about the funds that are sitting in allocated accounts and reminded the Board they need to be used. Those funds are \$220 in facilities to be used for the Smurthwaite House, \$300 to be used for the Jacob Waltz Project, \$655 to be used for landscaping. The landscaping funds have been sitting the account for an extended period of time and should be used.

OLD BUSINESS

Thomas Hayden Records – Ed Dobbins reported that he had received scans of some records to Rosedale that he had ordered. They are much more readable than what we have. A discussion occurred on cost and how to fund it in various ways such as fundraising or grants. Jenn is going to check with the Arizona Archives and see if she could work something out and report back to the Board in February.

Fire Alarm Update – The fire alarm is near completion and will be going through a final inspection soon.

Wooldridge Vault Assessment – The assessment was sent to all Board members. The door venting has not been done yet as suggested and termites not treated. Also structural repair needs to be done to the interior. These and other issues will be discussed with Parks South Deputy Director Joe Diaz during a meeting on January 25. Board members were invited to attend the Webex meeting with him.

Sotelo Heard Update – Mark gave an update on the current status of Sotelo Heard. The cemetery is still on property owned by Trellis with another non-profit, Cihuapactli Collective, wanting to take ownership through a land transfer involving the City of Phoenix. The City has not been updating PCA on any progress and it has been PCA's desire that the City retain ownership of the cemetery itself.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEES

Memorial Marker – Sterling stated the Memorial Marker Committee discussed a new order of cenotaphs for both PMMP and Cementerio Lindo. The idea is to use up what monies are designated for cenotaphs only so that two accounts that were created can be combined for easier management. The previous markers ordered have been put in place, but not permanently installed until weather permits. Judy asked about the placement of the DAR markers and Sterling indicated they will also be placed soon.

Membership – Patty said that membership will be taken on by Kim for a period of time. Please remember to renew.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Car/Art Show January 21 – Val said that the promotional media has been sent out. The car club is set to come and crafters and artists lined up.

Murder Mystery Practice January 7 – Patty and Val reminded everyone that Saturday, January 7 at 11 am, is a run through for the planned murder mystery event. Please come so that a practice run can occur since this event is a new one for PCA. Those that come will be assigned a character to participate and see how this will play out with the script.

Open House January 28 – Valentine Card making and Lezlee's CAR group are planning a visit. Lezlee said she will be coordinating with Donna on the visit and they plan to look at the CAR

marker that was placed out in Loosley years ago and its current condition. Debe said that she has all the Valentine Card making items and will pick up some goodies for the event. The cost is \$3 a valentine or two for \$5.

Grave Marker Preservation – Cindy said that work begins February 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19th and another day during the week.

Hats & High Tea February 25 – Debe said that 20 people have made reservations and almost half have paid. Cost is \$45.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Any questions or comments about the report can be directed toward Margy. Kim commented that having been Historian in the past, she liked Margy's formatting of the report and thought it was well done.

MEMORIAL DAY 2023

Patty brought up the discussion about Memorial Day this year and concerns over parking and possible light rail construction will be starting. A decision needs to be made on how big an event we will have and if it will be like 2022 where we were open, but no formal presentation occurred. Sterling said that he feels it will be a slow getting back to what it was. He feels we need to show people we are making some effort depending on the volunteers we have. Limit the event to a couple of military groups, taps and gun salute.

CONTINUED DIGITIZATION OF PCA MORTUARY RECORDS

Ed is continuing digitization of mortuary records and placing them on the house computer. This will make them available for review through Backblaze for our researchers. He will continue with other records as time permits.

FLOODING IN THE SOUTH CEMETERY

Flooding started December 7 when a storm drain backed up overflowing into the south cemetery along Harrison Street. A second flooding occurred around Christmas time and Kim was able to capture the water coming into the cemetery from a pipe. Mark said that at first there were at least 35 holes from the first flooding and now there are more that have developed because of the continued flooding. There is available dirt in the south cemetery that the City will need to use for fill dirt. The area is not safe at the present time.

OTHER BUSINESS

VOLUNTEER HOURS – Please remember to send in hours to Denise.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patty Gault