

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

Thursday, March 2nd, 2023

PCA Board Members present:

Smurthwaite House

Patty Gault, President

Donna Carr

Sterling Foster

Ed Dobbins

Debe Branning

WebEx

Val Wilson

Mark Lamm

Jenn Merry

Cindy Lee

PCA Advisory Board Members present:

Smurthwaite House

Kim Kasper

PCA Board Members absent:

Pam Stewart

Vicki Galli

Ileen Snoddy

PCA Advisory Board Members absent:

Frank Barrios

Margy Parisella

Marshall Shore

Judy Smith

Ryan Vander Ark

Lance Gray

PCA Members present:

Denise Foster

WebEx:

Lezlee Alexander

Discussion/Action

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

Approval of January 5th and February 2nd Minutes: President Patty Gault

- a. Minutes accepted as presented to the board

Treasurers Report: Val Wilson

- a. Beginning Balance -- \$29,367.70
- b. Ending Balance -- \$25,889.07 as of February 27th, 2023. Some accounts closed early. More about those accounts next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Sotelo Heard -- Progress on Sotelo Heard is moving forward. Mark said they are getting ready to set up a meeting in 2 weeks for further discussion.

Memorial Day – we will keep it small and just invite groups that we have asked in the past. We are looking for someone to play TAPS or give a gun salute.

State Archive Records – Jenn Merry made a suggestion to the State Archives Librarian that Thomas Hayden's journals be sent to the Arizona Historical Society. She also requested they do the same with the mortuary book collection. We are waiting for the State Librarian to sign off on the request. Once the records are received, Jenn Merry asked Ed Dobbins to help scan them.

Hats and High Tea – The event was a huge success. Many attendees were first time guests. 58 tickets were sold. Raffle tickets for custom baskets brought in \$1,000. Total earnings came to \$3,630. However, some of that money will be used to reimburse some out of pocket expenses.

NEW BUSINESS

Gravestone Preservation – Joe Ferrannini was here all of February and worked with a group of volunteers repairing headstones throughout the 7 cemeteries. A more detailed account of what was done will be given by Cindy Lee in March.

Memorial Markers – It has been determined that the metal mortuary markers that are placed throughout the cemeteries and acknowledged by KJ Schroeder in maps and writings be preserved by placing a marker at their locations. Patty will meet with Laurene Montero in April to discuss if the mortuary marker is an actual burial or something else so that we can mark them accordingly. The Memorial Marker committee will discuss options on the type of markers to use as well as verbiage.

Cementerio Lindo – Donna asked if there has been any progress in setting the 8x8 markers we have for the cenotaph garden in Cementerio Lindo. The committee is awaiting assistance from Polo, a retired City employee, who has helped us set other markers. The Tuesday Work Crew are thinking of opening up a Saturday workday to get younger, more able-bodied people to help do more projects.

Membership – Kim sent out 43 reminder letters to members that their membership is due. We currently have 65 paid members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Day of Service – Scheduled March 11th. Patty will reach out to Donna Reiner re: the DAR's participation. Judy Smith's chapter of DAR ladies are expected to be here but Judy's

husband, Mike, was involved in a horrific bicycle accident on February 25th and is hospitalized.

Murder Mystery Potluck and 2nd Run-Through – It was suggested that we have another run-through of the play before going forward and scheduling a performance to the public. All members interested were encouraged to come join in the fun. It will be held on Thursday, March 23rd, at 11 a.m. A potluck lunch will be followed by volunteers acting out a script. The volunteers who had participated in the first run-through said it was a great team building experience and lots of fun. An RSVP by March 12th would be appreciated.

March 25 – Open House

Trees along Madison – Earlier the City had shared with us a tree planting project they were planning to start this year at a cost of \$2 million. Some of these trees were to be planted along our cemetery fences on Madison Street. Patty composed a letter as to why this would not be a good idea and what type of problems it could cause to the cemeteries. Before sending the letter to the City, we were told that the City had had a meeting and that our disdain for the project was brought up. A number of other organizations also had concerns and the tree project has been placed on pause for now.

Resignation of Secretary – Ileen Snoddy sent in a resignation letter stepping down from her position as PCA secretary effective immediately. The role should be filled by someone who is on the board as soon as possible.

Other Business – It was discussed if it is appropriate as a non-profit to share a Go Fund Me page on our website or Face Book. The Go Fund Me in question was one set up for the group of bicyclists involved in the horrific accident that included Mike Smith, Judy husband. It was agreed that it would be okay to share since we didn't have any part in setting it up.

Meeting with Joe Diaz - Patty has a meeting scheduled for April 26th with Joe Diaz re: maintenance and other issues. The two most important topics are the roof on the Smurthwaite House and the termites on the front porch. Patty had sent Joe's assistant, Selina, info on the car fire that occurred in our parking lot during a preservation weekend. The car belonged to a volunteer who was at the cemetery helping to repair headstones. No one has gotten back to Patty at the time of our board meeting.

Meeting with the City of Phoenix Parks & Recs at house March 9, 9:30 a.m

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Foster