

PCA Historian's Report 2020

Prepared by Margy Parisella for Annual Board of Directors Meeting, November 5, 2020

Highlights or Summary of items included for each category below.

Closure and Covid Procedures

- City of Phoenix Parks and Rec. announced closing of all facilities March 2020. In person Memorial Day Celebration cancelled, but a wonderful video was produced by Channel 7 staff with Rick Romley as the MC.
- Cancelled because of Covid - PCA Open House on March 28th. Tour highlighting women and children interred.
- Webex Board Meetings began in April.
- PCA Covid Check list sent to City Parks & Rec. May. June - Phase 1 procedure opens Smurthwaite House, PMMP, and Cementerio Lindo to PCA Board and Committee members following guidelines. August- Phase 2 adds the availability of members to visit by appointment. Phase 3 allows cemetery tours by appointment with limited numbers and following guidelines. Phase 4 – **tbd**. Open for workshops, open houses and special events.
- Board members attended Zoom Conversation on Museum Re-Opening presented by Museum Association of Arizona in July.
- PCA has a digital thermometer at the house. September Note from City to Facilities (relevant items to PCA) - soap and dispensers at restrooms, signage for mandatory masks in all city facilities, areas restricted to certain numbers of people.
- PCA will define procedures and training for PCA members to host BOD or Committee meetings thru Webex for future meetings, October.

Community Involvement / Donations / Grant

- DAR donation of gift card for interior paint and 2 trees – planted by City crew.
- DAR Historic Preservation Grant for “historic grave marker repairs”
- AZ Humanities Grant for Grave Marker Preservation with an emphasis on Women and Children markers and information.
- PCA was approved by Arizona Historical Society as a “Certified Historical Institution” in June.
- PCA submitted a Small Grant Request to AHS for Jacob Waltz grave improvements, but did not receive a grant this year.

Community Projects

- Sotelo - Heard Cemetery development and improvements continue to be discussed. ASU and City of Phoenix (Councilman Garcia's office) are holding meetings. Land acquisition to be by City with Operations potentially by Parks and PCA. A compilation of stories & plans to preserve a historic cemetery was compiled in 2018 (lists 308 burials).
- Chinese Community – continued work on book and Circle Project Construction prep day is Nov. 10th.
- Community clean-ups ongoing.

PCA Teams/Committees/Activity Groups Highlights

- Executive Committee – review and update of Standard Operating Procedures in March; PCA Power point created in March for City Presentation. PCA By-law revisions for Annual meeting voting on November 5th; slate of potential Board nominations prepared for voting at Annual Meeting. Upcoming BOD and Maint. Meetings in December both in-person and virtual. Transfer of Officers binders and all info to New Exec. Committee.
- Antiques, Acquisitions and Donations – Displays have been rotated. 1806/7 Bible brought to Smurthwaite. Judy has the story.

- Communications – Facebook posts continue. PCA Rack cards printed, Video of PMMP on FB – 900 views in April; 674 followers on FB. New walking tour brochures based on interred military and interred Chinese. Volunteer hours tabulated monthly (PCA volunteer time / value for 2019 = \$ 202,029).
- Finance – reviewed and approved Annual line item budget in September.
- Facilities – working on improvements at Freddie Tovrea & Jacob Waltz graves, Memorial Walkway (Cenotaph Memorial Brick Program); coordinating with Parks& Rec. staff for improvements, interior paint at 2nd floor to begin with paint purchase on Nov. 12. Storage room mural being considered. Woolridge vault structural assessment needed. Light rail impacts to be watched for impact to PMMP.
- IT Committee – Backblaze for remote access and disaster recovery renewed for 1 yr. in May 2020; new Vimeo channel created for email blasts (MailChimp) and video posts (Weebly).
- Living History Team –continued work on biographies, focused list of Victorian-era women buried in PMMP, prepared brochure of Chinese Pioneers buried in PMMP.
- Membership, as of May – 85 members.
- RIP newsletters – March, June, and September 2020. Nov. 20th due date for December newsletter submittals.
- “Behind the epitaph” blog started in March and continues.
- **Grave Marker Preservation**
 - Conservator work session “Boots in the Dirt” February 15 through 23, 2020 at PMMP and Greenwood Cemeteries.
 - Upcoming workshop Feb. 2021 funded by DAR Grant and PCA funding.
 - Program 3 yr. presentation to the City of Phoenix in Feb. 2021.

City of Phoenix crew projects and other City action items

- Dead trees removed, trees trimmed. Jefferson St. landscape improvement project completed.
- City completed major clean-up in April 2020.
- Mobile mini - termite and floor replacement completed.
- Updating of PCA Operating Agreement with CoP, Parks and Rec. Dept.
- IGA for Cemetery Maintenance on hold due to Covid.
- Annual meeting and tour Facilities committee and the South Division Parks and Rec. of CoP held in Sept.

Events and Fund Raising Events

- Make and Take Valentines on Jan. 25th and Hats & High Tea on Feb. 29th.
- Memorial Day Presentation on local channel 7 TV with Rick Romley as MC. Video available at House?
- Dia De Los Muertos Event on October 24 and 25th, 2020.
- Christmas Ornament making and Party Event on Dec. 12th to be voted on at upcoming meeting.

PCA Board Meetings: 1st Thursday of the Month. Meetings generally include: President’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, Old Business, New Business, Schedules, Call to Public and AZ Trivia. Selected additional items are shown below:

- Feb. 6th- Master Calendar; March 5th – discussion of new T-shirts; April – Change in leadership; May – 2020 PCA teams list, contact list, discussion of IGA with City for maint.; October – Covid updates, Madison St. changes.

PCA / City of Phoenix Parks and Rec. South Division Maint. Meetings: Monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month. Some sample discussion items shown below.

- Feb. 13th-Security Doors, Security Cameras installed, list of Future Boy Scouts projects; Sept. 10th- large boulders, weed control, termites, dumpster locking and phone # change on signs discussed.

End of Report.