

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

Thursday, September 7, 2023

PCA Board Members present:

Smurthwaite House

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

Webex

Jenn Merry
Val Wilson, Treasurer

PCA Advisory Board Members present:

Smurthwaite House

Margy Parisella

Webex

Pamela Stewart

PCA Advisory Board Members absent:

Judy Smith
Marshall Shore
Ryan Vander Ark

PCA Members present:

Smurthwaite House

Denise Foster

Webex

Vivia Strang
Lezlee Alexander

Guests

Tim Diaz
Maria Cano and Enjolie LaFaurie of the Cihuapactli Collective

Discussion/Action

Call to order: President Patty Gault called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of June 7, 2023 Minutes: Minutes accepted as presented to the Board.

Treasurers Report: Kim Kasper

- a. Beginning Balance - \$27,044.79
- b. Ending Balance - \$27,464.04

OLD BUSINESS

Sotelo Heard – Tim Diaz, a community member involved with the Sotelo Heard project, introduced Maria Cano of the non-profit Cihuapactli Collective. She and Enjolie LaFaurie updated the Board on the progress of acquiring the cemetery from Trelis. They did share the updated project plans through a power point and stated that the first phase will be the preservation of the cemetery.

Jacob Waltz Update – Photos of the plaque and bench that have been installed were sent out to the Board. Margy stated that the monument will be similar to the one in the Chinese Circle. The committee is refining the wording and still getting cost estimates. The boulders, bench, plaque have been completed except the gravel has yet to be delivered by the City. Ed told the Board in looking through old PCA records, a letter was found from the Dons Club from 1936 where they had offered to donate money for the restoration of the Jacob Waltz grave site. There was also a concept drawing they had proposed. Mark brought up the missing t-shirts and is asking the Board to consider reimbursing the Committee for the missing shirts by putting the cost of the shirts into the Jacob Waltz funding. Patty suggested that at the end of the fundraising effort if there is a shortage of funds for the monument, the Board at that time should consider what money would be added for the purchase of the monument. Mark stated the committee is starting fundraising and the estimate at this time for the cost is \$7,300. Patty asked if the committee has the design because it has not yet been approved. The committee will present the final design in October. Margy also said that the Committee is applying for a small grant to Moon Valley organization to help with the monument which is due by September 15th. The Committee has received a decent quote from Artistic Sandblasting to do the design on the monument. There may be an install price but Mark believes the City will help with that. The Committee is going to be using memorial coins for a fundraiser and Mark was asked to bring one to the next Board meeting.

Donated items to the project at this time include: Boulders @ \$3500, Bench \$437, Plaque \$549, Granite @ \$1200, Memorial Coins \$1,047.

Light Rail Art Committee – There has been a change in the path of the Light Rail because of a recent Senate bill that will go to the voters. Patty sent an email to Jessica Parks of Valley Metro asking what that meant for area around the cemetery. The response was not clear if this change will impact PMMP. Val has been accepted onto the Art Committee for the stations that will be placed along the Light Rail. The meetings for this committee have been pushed to possibly November because of the change of the Light Rail path.

African American Burial Project – Jenn said that there have not been any updates on this project. The struggle at the moment is determining what the project will look like and where the information will be hosted and archived. AHS cannot host the material. There needs to be another meeting to organize what type of research is needed and what outcome is desired. Support for this project has been given by AHS, ASU and the Black Family Genealogy Society.

NEW BUSINESS

Committees

Memorial Marker – Sterling stated that cenotaphs will be placed in Cementerio Lindo from those purchased recently by PCA and family on Tuesday, September 12th. These may not be permanent. Twenty-one markers placed in PMMP have been placed but not cemented in until it gets cooler.

Newsletter – Val reminded everyone to send in articles for the newsletter which will be coming out soon.

Upcoming Events

Ice Cream Social – Patty said we are ready for the social for members on September 23rd. There will still be bingo.

Dia De Los Muertos – Debe said that the event has been sold out for over a month.

Cactus Wren DAR Marker Cleaning – Jenn will be leading this effort on October 21st.

Murder Mystery – This event is October 21st and tickets will soon go on sale.

Nomination Committee – We need to begin planning for the 2024 election. In October we hope to have a Committee for the Board to approve.

Homeless Shelter – Patty related that a homeless shelter will be placed at 15th Avenue and Jackson. It is supposed to have security 24/7. Mark said it will be fenced and will be opened in stages. The cleanups have continued.

Plan 2024 Calendar – We need to start working on events for next year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cactus Wren DAR Bench – Cactus Wren is ready to place the bench that was part of their support of the DAR grant from 2021-2022. A precast bench along with a plaque is to be placed near the Avenue of Flags.

Volunteer Hours – Please remember to send in hours to Denise.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patty Gault and Denise Foster.

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

Newsletter Dates 2023: November 25 – December Newsletter