

**PIONEERS' CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
MINUTES**

SMURTHWAITE HOUSE/ZOOM Thursday, February 5, 2026

PCA Board Members present:

Patty Gault, President
Cindy Lee, Vice President
Val Wilson, Treasurer

Ed Dobbins, Historian
Debe Branning
Donna Carr
Kim Kasper
Sterling Foster
Mark Lamm
Tom Yount
Jarrod Riddle
Steve Schumaker, Advisor

Other Members Present:

Lezlee Alexander
Denise Foster

PCA Board Members absent:

Jenn Merry, Secretary
Vicki Galli, Board
Brittany Heingardner, Advisor
Margy Parisella, Advisor
Pamela Stewart, Advisor
Judy Smith, Advisor

Discussion/Action

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

Approval of January 8, 2026 Minutes: Approved.

Treasurers Report: Val Wilson's report read by Patty Gault: as of January 1st -
Beginning Balance - \$41,479.18; Ending Balance - \$39,295.73

OLD BUSINESS

Safe Outdoor Space: Next Thurs. after meeting with the City of Phoenix.

January 24: Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable - about 50 people on a bus tour; - Jarrod Riddle/Bob Cox/Ed Dobbins leading, outside cems only; hard to hear some of the leaders. Open house same day for Valentine's making and Debe was at house when tour came in so no visit inside the house. Valentine's making was small but good group. Made \$125.

Lightrail has canceled and will not be coming toward the front of Smurthwaite House or cemeteries.

Elections: This November, elections for PCA Board happen again. Cindy is setting up an elections committee and needs volunteers. Meeting in May and we need volunteers to be on the board/advisory/etc.

Letter to the City: Sent Tuesday. Phoenix Historic Preservation called. They needed color for House, swatches sent several years ago and never came back. They are replacing some shingles. They are going to fix the porch, do a test to see where the leak on the porch is, they are fixing the siding. They started all this likely not because of the letter. Going to remove letter from the website to wait and see what happens. Many letters were also sent via email at the same time: **Mayor response:** thanked us for contacting them, and they'd been in communications with Parks staff. It was shared that this has been a difficult project due to back and forth with HP, PCA, and the contractor. The HP reps, South Division reps, staff, and the contractor are meeting again to discuss next steps. But PCA has not been included in any of this so at least we know now.

Smurthwaite 3D printed by Val, looks dilapidated for presentation.

LIDAR map: Kate Gordon, who was going to take LIDAR photos of the cemetery and create a map. She came last month but didn't get to do much due to some activity around the area and will have to come back, plus will need some additional licensing. She is coming next Saturday again. Will continue to come until it gets too hot.

Calendar:

Feb. 28 Open House, nothing planned except CVA Southern Cross ceremony for Perry Wilson, same day, cemetery opened but that is the extent of our participation.

March 28: Irish Wake: Mannequin laid out in the parlor, and there will be 4 actors, 3 of them are returns, one's new; and we'll also tell about the traditions of an Irish wake, plus an Irish scavenger hunt.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee reports questions? No

Membership: 54 members; reminders will be sent out again.

CAR Plaque: ready for installation, just need a date - is there a time during March? Tom measured plaque in Loosely and he can make some adjustments and get it on there ASAP. Maybe during March 28.

3-Year Plan: Sent to board. Sent to the City every year and we will update it after we see what they get done.

Quarterly report: Also sent. Required report showing all the work we have done and how much volunteer time we have put in.

March is Phoenix History Month: for the last several years, Mayor Gallego has signed a proclamation making the month of March Phoenix History Month. Need ideas for things to do in conjunction with the cemetery, or schools or other organizations. Steve Schumaker, Phoenix Historian, can come and speak about Phoenix history. We also have Jarrod and Ed.

Jarrod offered tours with member discount.

Wickenburg house and cemetery: Owner is ill, trying to get someone to take over ownership of that property. (Where Henry Wickenburg is buried) Town of Wickenburg doesn't want it. State Parks cannot take over they are too stretched. Also a same call from Flagstaff with same question, a cemetery being abandoned in Flagstaff too.

Other:

- Litchfield Heritage Center is working on a HP nomination for Goodyear Cemetery, and they are trying to get in touch with Jose Villela. Also they have been fundraising for 5 years, and they're going to start a restoration of the main house up there on the hill on March 4th. And they've been working for 5 years, and they've raised \$2 million. They're going to renovate that house and open it to the public.

Volunteer Hours Reminder - Please send your hours to Denise.

Meeting Adjourned 10:39 a.m

Respectfully submitted by Jenn Merry