

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

Thursday, October 3, 2024

PCA Board Members present:

Smurthwaite House

Patty Gault, President
Cindy Lee, Vice President
Debe Branning
Donna Carr
Kim Kasper
Val Wilson, Treasurer
Vicki Galli
Ed Dobbins

On Zoom

Sterling Foster
Mark Lamm
Denise Foster
Brittany Hinegardner
Lezlee Alexander

PCA Board Members absent:

Jenn Merry
Margy Parisella

PCA Advisory Board Members present:

Pamela Stewart

PCA Advisory Board Members absent:

Marshall Shore
Ryan Vander Ark
Judy Smith

Smurthwaite House

Jarrod Riddle, Member

Discussion/Action

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

Approval of September 5, 2024 Minutes: Minutes accepted as presented to the Board.

Treasurers Report: Report given by Val Wilson

as of September 1st - Beginning Balance - \$30,366.67

as of September 30th - Ending Balance - \$30,993.01

OLD BUSINESS

Election Slate: Cindy Lee presented the Election Slate for the 2025-2026 Board member positions. 13 Board of Director positions and 6 Advisory positions.

Motion, Debe Branning: to accept the slate as presented for 2-year terms. Second, Donna Carr. Vote: Yes, unanimously approved.

Dia de Los Muertos Event:

The Dia de Los Muertos Doll & Pot event was held on September 28, 2024 at the Vernell Coleman Recreation Center. Many of the attendees “loved” the new venue. PCA may want to consider using the facility again. Cindy Lee provided an itemized summary of all volunteer hours, donations and earnings. She also provided a summary of the comments made by the attendees and all were favorable. There were 18 attendees and 6 PCA volunteers. The total earnings for Grave Marker Preservation totaled \$785.00.

Cemetery Tours/Jarrold Riddle:

Jarrold owns “Spirit of Arizona” Tour Company and proposed adding a Pioneers’ Cemeteries tour to his tour experiences. It could increase visibility and generate revenue for PCA. At least 2 PCA volunteers will need to be present. It will be an approximately 1-hour tour. The frequency will need to be determined. Jarrold will design a tour. Currently it is too hot to start. Sterling offered to be part of the process as soon as his health allows.

Motion, Val Wilson: to allow Jarrold Riddle to start tours at P&MMP. Second, Cindy Lee. Vote: Yes, unanimously approved.

Smurthwaite House Repairs:

Patty had a conversation with Joe Diaz. He said the window repair costs “came in 5 times more than expected”. He will be talking with the city Historic Preservation Office about the possibility of obtaining grant funds. Otherwise, repairs will have to be evaluated and prioritized to fit within the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

No questions on Committee Reports

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 18th – AHS El Merito Award event, PCA members to attend w/videos and brochures
- October 19th – Ed speaks to Anasazi DAR, Patty will accompany Ed
- October 22nd – Debe speaks at the AZ Regional Library in Gilbert
- October 26th – Open House

Financial Procedure-Donations

Margy requested that the item be placed on the agenda and since she is not present, Mark was asked to discuss the issue. Mark asked who makes the decision on how donations are distributed? The response was, the donor dictates. If there is a question, then they are contacted to clarify. There was a brief discussion regarding the March, 2024 donation from the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows. The donation letter states for Grave Marker

Preservation in the IOOF. Mr. Long has been contacted in the past by Val to verify his wishes for this donation. Since this donation is questioned each time it comes in, Patty suggested that the Board decide the use of the monies going forward. She suggested since GMP does not receive a budget as does every other Committee, the donation be for their budget. All GMP expenses are donated or raised by fundraising.

Motion, Vicki Galli: future donations from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows will automatically go to the Gravemarker Preservation Committee, unless otherwise indicated with a letter. Second, Debe Branning. Vote: Yes, unanimously approved.

Patty said that the Financial Policy will be reviewed by Committee, since it appears that the procedure for restricted donations was removed at some point. Once amended, it will be presented to the Board for approval.

Decolonization-What it Means for Museums

Currently most museums and similar institutions typically represent Caucasian perspectives. The concept of decolonization opens up the studies of indigenous people, which includes other voices, religions, races, etc. It's intent is to present a different narrative. Museums are recognizing their own voices are silencing other voices. The Rosson House Museum is "rebranding".

Chinese Incinerator

Everyone complimented Ed on his excellent "Chinese Burner/Incinerator at P&MMP" report. He will continue to research and report.

Volunteer Hours Reminder

Please send your hours to Denise.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

City of Phoenix Parks & Recs meeting will be on 10/10/2024, 9:30 AM

Respectfully submitted by Kim Kasper