

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

*Thursday, September 5, 2024*

**PCA Board Members present:**

**Smurthwaite House**

Patty Gault, President  
Cindy Lee, Vice President  
Debe Branning  
Donna Carr  
Kim Kasper  
Mark Lamm  
Vicki Galli

**On Zoom**

Jenn Merry  
Val Wilson  
Steve Schumacher, Guest

**PCA Advisory Board Members present:**

Pamela Stewart  
Margy Parisella

**PCA Advisory Board Members absent:**

Marshall Shore  
Ryan Vander Ark  
Judy Smith  
Sterling Foster

**Smurthwaite House**

Vivia Strang  
Jarrod Riddle, Guest

**Discussion/Action**

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

**Approval of June 6, 2024 Minutes:** Minutes accepted as presented to the Board.

**Treasurers Report:** Kim Kasper gave the treasurer's report (Val had technical difficulties):

as of August 1st	-	Beginning Balance - \$30,455.57
as of August 31st	-	Ending Balance - \$30,366.67

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Jacob Waltz:**

The JW Committee submitted an example of a "rack card" the committee is proposing to publish.

Motion, Cindy Lee: to accept the rack card as present for publishing. Second, Mark Lamm.

Vote: 8 yes, 1 no (Kim)

### **Mason's Donation:**

PCA received a generous donation from AZ Mason's Lodge #2. Vic Olson gave Patty the check on Memorial Day. He was previously sent the fundraising letter for the monument by Margy Parisella. The J.W. Monument expenses had already been paid by previous donations, so the funds were deposited into the PCA general fund as per the letter. At the May board meeting the committee stated that they were done fundraising. There was apparently a communication lapse. The committee planned to make additional enhancements to the project with the Mason's funds. The PCA's understanding was they had completed the project. Patty stated any additional spending would need to be approved by the board. The plan is to line the existing path to the JW burial site with larger river rock and to cement the brick border around the burial site in concrete to hold the crushed granite in place. Mark said he incorporated older bricks from the cemetery in the brick border at the burial site. Cindy Lee wondered if any of the bricks were historic, possibly from the Chinese Incinerator in the cemetery. Mark said he inspected them and they were not. Mark said the City would do the labor. Additional funds are needed for rocks, approximately \$600.00. The funds would come from the general funds.

Motion, Vicki Galli: to allow the PCA to pay (from the general fund) for river rocks needed to create a pathway between the Jacob Waltz memorials. Second, Cindy Lee. Vote: yes, unanimously approved.

Patty will add a future Agenda tem to discuss how donation intentions should be clearly indicated.

### **Cactus Wren DAR Bench:**

Cactus Wren DAR has placed a new bench along the Avenue of Flags where the old cement bench was. Jenn Merry stated there will be a dedication ceremony, possibly the end of October or beginning of November. We don't currently know what the future construction schedule for the Smurthwaite House is and if there will be access to the property.

### **Smurthwaite House Repairs:**

We still don't have a start date. Patty was told by Joe Diaz that they have hired a window contractor that was recommended by the City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Office.

### **Light Rail-Valley Metro Update:**

Patty said at a past board meeting we would meet with Light Rail representatives in October; however, she is not sure about that now. All members received a copy of the most recent project status report that isn't very informative. Patty also mentioned she had recently received a strange email from Valley Metro wanting some historic information and a presenter available to them on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Jarred Riddle was contacted too since he gives history tours of Phoenix. He explained they were looking for someone to give a more current history of the area and did not want Hohokam history or the time period of our cemetery. There will be a station in front of the cemetery at Jefferson and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and another station at Washington and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Val did say the artists for the station projects have been chosen.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

No questions on Committee Reports

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- September 21 – The Ice Cream Social has been put on hold
- September 28 – Dia de Los Muertos, 6 tickets sold, new location Tonto and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- October 19 – Ed speaks to Anasazi DAR, Patty will accompany Ed
- October 26 – Open House

The Nominating Committee has compiled a slate and will present at the October board meeting. The election will be held at the November board meeting.

Pamela Stewart has received a request from an online PhD program student from rural Oregon regarding an internship with PCA next spring. She needs to produce 750 hours of research results. It was decided she could write biographies of Pioneers' Cemeteries residents. Pamela has offered to assist and advise. PCA will discuss further details next month.

Patty stated the PCA bills are more than the PCA income. Should we increase membership dues?

Motion, Cindy Lee: to increase membership dues by \$5.00 for each membership. Second, Debe Branning. Vote: yes, unanimously approved.

Currently planning the new 2025 PCA calendar. It's difficult to finalize because of the upcoming restoration work on the Smurthwaite House.

We have a new internet provider, Verizon. We previously paid \$45.00 per month and we are now paying \$73.00 per month. This is the first online meeting and there have been some technical issues.

There is a new process with the city to get an alarm code. The member will need to have a background check done.

Cindy Lee and Jenn Merry are going to create an instruction video for preservation to demonstrate the proper stone cleaning process.

## **CALL TO PUBLIC**

Jarrold Riddle owns a tour company and he would like to offer a "Cemeteries Only" tour. It would be a 1 to 1½ hour tour only at PMMP. Patty expressed concern about the upcoming construction schedule and limited access to the property. Jarrold will start working on a plan to present and will bring it back to PCA at the October meeting.

**Volunteer Hours Reminder**

Please send your hours to Denise.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

**City of Phoenix Parks & Recs meeting will be on 9/12/2024, 9:30 AM**

Respectfully submitted by Kim Kasper