

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

Thursday, December 7th, 2023

PCA Board Members present:

Smurthwaite House

Patty Gault, President
Cindy Lee, Vice President
Ed Dobbins, Historian
Debe Branning
Kim Kasper
Donna Carr
Sterling Foster

PCA Board Members absent:

Webex

Val Wilson, Treasurer
Jenn Merry
Mark Lamm

Vicki Galli

PCA Advisory Board Members present:

Smurthwaite House

Margy Parisella

Webex

PCA Advisory Board Members absent:

Pamela Stewart
Judy Smith
Marshall Shore
Ryan Vander Ark

PCA Members present:

Smurthwaite House

Denise Foster
Vivia Strang

Webex

Lezlee Alexander

Discussion/Action

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

Approval of November 2nd, 2023 Minutes: Minutes accepted as presented to the Board.

Treasurers Report: Val Wilson gave treasurer's report:

as of November 1st - Beginning Balance - \$28,886.07

as of November 30th - Ending Balance - \$28,606.48

Need to approve proposed budget for 2024

No one contacted Val to adjust their committee budgets

Motion to accept budget - Donna Carr made motion: Cindy Lee seconded

Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS

Jacob Waltz Fundraising Update

Mark Lamm said the committee had about \$1,625. He said they were funded for the whole \$7,300 so the monument can be ordered. Phoenix Genealogical Society had contacted the PCA wanting to donate to one of our projects. The Jacob Waltz project was mentioned. They asked for a meeting with someone from the PCA to explain what the project was about. Margy Parisella, the JW committee chairman, met with them a few days prior to our board meeting. A donation was not made at this time. No one has heard from the Dons Club re: their donation. Patty asked how long they were planning to

fundraise for the project. Mark said sometime in January they were going to stop the fundraising. Patty proposed that PCA put \$500 into the Jacob Waltz fund towards the monument. Patty asked if there was another amount anyone had in mind. Sterling Foster suggested \$1,000. A couple of people asked our treasurer if our budget could handle a \$1,000 donation to the JW fund. Val said yes. Sterling moved the PCA put \$1,000 towards the JW monument. Ed Dobbins seconded it. Motion approved.

Vivia Strang said the monument has not yet been paid for. Whatever is not paid for through fundraising efforts will be covered by Mark. We would still accept donations from clubs due to their budget cycles as some donations would not be made until February or March. Patty asked if a down payment is necessary to start and Vivia said no.

Any money over and above the money collected after the monument was paid for will be put into maintenance for the cemetery.

Homeless Center Update

Had a follow up meeting with Rachel Milne re: the homeless center they are opening at 15th Ave & Jackson. She said they will be there for 3 years and that's the limit. If we experience any problems we can reach out to her.

T-Shirt Update

Cindy Lee said she had 3 t-shirts left with people's names in reserve. Out of the 32 t-shirts we ordered we have 1 small, 2 medium & 2 large left in stock. There are 7 special orders that Cindy still needs to place. The committee needs to get together to reorder more shirts.

At the Christmas /40th Anniversary Event we did well in selling shirts, raffle tickets, and memberships.

Calendar for 2024

Plenty of room for adding any events or other things we might like to do

Light Rail Update

Val said art project meetings for the light rail had been set up for December 11th, 12th & 13th but they were pushed out probably into February. They are still having budget issues. Patty said she might reach out to our contact to see when their start dates might happen as we haven't seen any activity.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Totals

We have 26 new members according to Lezlee Alexander. Cindy and Kim Kasper are working on sending membership information via snail mail. They are planning on sending out another email blast.

Tours

Cindy talked to Jarrod Riddle about doing cemetery tours and he told her he is quite busy with his Christmas lights tours right now. Will contact us at a later date.

Upcoming Events

Open House towards end of January and Valentine Card Making fundraiser.

Letter to City re: Budget

Patty sent out a draft of the letter the PCA is planning to send to the City of Phoenix. She thanked Jenn Merry and a few others in help writing it. She said it was difficult getting it all into one page. Mark asked Patty where we should send this letter and what is the follow-up. Patty said that is her question as well. Joe Diaz wants a copy & she will send him one along with photos of our issues. She does not believe sending this letter just to Joe Diaz would have much of an effect on anything.

Patty would like people who support the PCA to see this and possibly put the letter on our social media pages. She would like people who support us to start calling the City of Phoenix.

Lezlee mentioned sending the letter to the City Councilwoman for our area, who is running for Congress, Yassamin Anasari. Mark said to send a copy to the Parks and Recs Director Cynthia Aguilar and Inger Erickson who is a Deputy City Manager. He believes they would appreciate a copy of the letter as a heads-up when the public comments start to come in. Lezlee said she could put the letter into PDF and into our emails.

Patty will put the draft onto letterhead to make it official and let Joe know who else she is sending it to. We can put lots of before and after photos onto our website with a slideshow. If people are interested in sending comments to the City of Phoenix, we could probably write up a small paragraph as to what they could say. Val said she could put it in the December newsletter.

Vivia suggested being careful with stirring the political pot. Jenn offered to talk to the CHI (Certified Historic Institute) manager re: us being a 501C3 in submitting the letter. The City of Phoenix is being neglectful with the Smurthwaite House. For instance, the House has not been painted since 1998 when it was moved to its current location. The City of Phoenix claims they do not have any money in their budget for the Smurthwaite House. We are wanting to see if the City will accept ownership of this property.

ZOOM

Val and Patty are going to transition to ZOOM for online meetings.

Volunteer Hours

Please send in hours to Denise.

Membership dues are now due especially if you are on the Board.

Sotelo Heard Update

Mark said there was a City meeting for Sotelo Heard and the Assistant Director from Parks, Tracy Hall, indicated Parks will probably not be involved with the maintenance of Sotelo Heard in the future but possibly another City Department would. Christine Mackey from Community Economic Development is also involved.

January Members Meeting will be January 4th 2024 at 10 am.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:42 am.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Foster