

Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project
Summer Gathering
July 14, 2020

Minutes:

- 1) SONG Roanoke meeting
- 2) History Project stuff:
 - a. ARCHIVES
 - i. GSR gave updates on the recent massive RDC donation to the project's archives. Digitization is completely on hold until the Virginia Room reopens.
 - b. WALKING TOURS
 - i. COVID RESTRICTIONS: No one attended the July 12th 'Before West Station' tour although the tour had initially sold out (max. 4 participants) months in advance. When asked to reconfirm one week before the actual tour, 3 of 4 people said they had changed their plans and 1 never reconfirmed. What can we do differently next time? Options:
 1. Charge a minimal fee for the tour, w/ the idea that people are more likely to keep their plans if they have paid?
 2. Increase tour capacity? (From 5 total people to 10? Or more? Guides should discuss and seek consensus on an appropriate upper limit, understanding that there may always be attrition.)
 3. Ditch the reservation system altogether and just offer the tours as before COVID w/o reservations?
 - ii. TOUR TRAINING:
 1. New guides: Downtown tour training is Saturday, August 8th, 10am-noon-ish. (Then you can shadow the following day's public Downtown tour Sunday at 2pm if you're free and you'll be done with the entire training process! If not, public downtown tours are every other month so there'll be shadowing opportunities later on, too.)
 2. Returning guides: Old SW tour training is Saturday, August 15th, 10am-noon-ish. West Station tour training is Sunday, August 16th, 10am-noon-ish.
 - iii. UPCOMING TOURS:
 1. August 9 – Downtown – LM
 2. Sep 13 – OSW – ND
 3. Oct 18 – Downtown – JB
 4. Nov 15 – West Station – TBD
 5. Dec – no tour
 - c. LGBT LIBRARY
 - i. MOVE:
 1. Ongoing. Hope to finish moving the library into new RDC location sometime in July or August. We have set our first resumed LGBT Library work meeting for Sunday, August 2nd, 1pm @ RDC.
 - ii. EVENTS

1. Next book club meeting: *Unapologetic* by Charlene Carruthers; Sun, August 9, 2pm @ RDC
- d. SEF GRANT:
 - i. N & SR gave updates on the grant. The first of the revised “community dinners” will be in August and we’ll go from there.
- e. FALL PLANS:
 - i. Pride has been cancelled (again). Will occur next in April 2021. We paid the registration fee so hopefully it will be returned or carried over to next year.
 - ii. Discussed having another picnic/cookout in Wasena Park in the fall w/ SONG for the History Project’s 5th Anniversary Party / Visioning Workshop
- f. THE HISTORY PROJECT and ANTI-RACIST COMMITMENTS:
 - i. Continue researching Henry Street’s queer history
 - ii. Train Black LGBTQ folks in oral history methods and then do a round of oral history interviewing that is led by Black queer folks interviewing other Black queer folks.
 - iii. Consider the ways that the methodologies of the project are rooted in whiteness, and different ways of doing things that are more attuned to Black LGBTQ people’s experiences and wants and needs

3) NEXT MEETING

- a. Tuesday, August 11th, 7pm, on Zoom.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 2, 1pm: LGBT Library work meeting @ RDC

Saturday, August 8, 10am: Downtown tour training

Sunday, August 9, 2pm: Downtown Roanoke LGBTQ History Walking Tour

Sunday, August 9, 2pm: LGBTQ Book Club meeting @ RDC

Saturday, August 15, 10am: Old Southwest tour training

Sunday, August 16, 10am: ‘Before West Station’ tour training

Sunday, August 16, 7pm: City Council public hearing on removing the Lee monument