

**Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project  
General Meeting at the Roanoke Public Library  
July 28, 2016**

5 people in attendance.

**AGENDA**

(6-6:05pm): Check-ins  
(6:05-6:25pm): SEPTEMBER PLANS  
(6:30-6:50pm): DIGITAL EXHIBITION  
(6:50-7:05pm): WALKING TOUR  
(7:05-7:10pm): ARCHIVES  
(7:10-7:20pm): ORAL HISTORIES  
(7:20-7:30pm): COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
(7:30pm): Departure

**SEPTEMBER PLANS**

- 1) PRIDE IN THE PARK (Sunday, Sept. 11) --- six weeks to go!
  - a. What we still need to do...
    - i. Canopy = need to confirm with JB again about using his canopy
    - ii. Table and chairs = GR will check to see if we can borrow some from History Dept.
    - iii. Decorations = RW will purchase some at Dollar Tree and take the lead with canopy decoration
    - iv. Banner = RW will speak to Karen Gray at Blue Ridge Sign & Stamp about their prices; GR will check with other vendors and get some quotes.
      1. We decided to make a professional-looking banner with our organization's name on it, and the GARV Lambda symbol
      2. There was talk of possibly making a second banner that says "Make Roanoke Queer Again." We discussed possibly making that banner more DIY with just canvas and paint.
        - a. Perhaps we can have a late August / early September banner-making & brochure-folding party???
    - v. Literature to hand out =
      1. Walking Tour Brochure = EW is working on this
      2. "Save the Date" card for CoLab 9/20 event
      3. quarter-sheet announcing our new exhibit at [gayliberationroanoke.org](http://gayliberationroanoke.org)

4. One-page sheet about our project = GR has 80 leftover copies from the last event
  5. Print-outs of *Big Lick Gayzette* 1, no. 1 = GR can do this at Roanoke College... simple two-sided print out
  6. #MakeRoanokeQueerAgain merch (buttons, stickers, other things) = we discussed the fact that people would have donate money to cover the costs of any “give aways”
- b. VOLUNTEERS = We need two volunteers for every hour from at least 10am through 7pm on Sunday, Sept. 11. Sign-up on our “Pride in the Park” spreadsheet online! Thank you.
  - c. PRIDE PARADE (Saturday, Sept. 10) = We agreed to register for the parade. We will need at least 2-4 volunteers, but hopefully many more, to carry our banner(s) in the parade.
- 2) ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY / YEAR-TWO VISIONING WORKSHOP (Tuesday, Sept. 20, 6-8pm)
- a. The space fee for the CoLab (\$100) is paid. Donors may reimburse GR at any amount you would like to contribute.
  - b. FOOD & DRINK = We decided to make this a “potluck” event. GR will provide cake, non-alcoholic beverages, and paper products. All others should bring a small food item to the event. Thank you!
  - c. PROMOTION =
    - i. DIRECT INVITES: Everyone please think of five people in the Southwest Virginia community who you think would add something unique to our project’s vision. Please send a direct, individual invitation to them, asking them to attend our party/workshop. Thank you!
    - ii. FLYER? = We will make a “Save the Date” card for our Pride in the Park booth, but anyone want to take on designing other promotional materials? Something to post at the CoLab, maybe?

## **DIGITAL EXHIBITION**

- 1) DOMAIN NAME = We decided to purchase [www.gayliberationroanoke.org](http://www.gayliberationroanoke.org) as the unique URL for our exhibition
- 2) LAUNCH DATE = We decided to officially announce the exhibit on Monday morning, Sept. 12, but of course it will be “live” as of Sept. 11 so that we can “premiere” it at our Pride in the Park booth.
- 3) PROMOTION = Come September, announce exhibition website to...
  - a. Relevant college and university departments and faculty
  - b. Local LGBTQ organizations and institutions
  - c. LGBTQ facebook groups (RW has a good list)
  - d. Relevant high school teachers? GSAs?
  - e. Local museums and cultural institutions

- f. National LGBTQ history organizations and websites
- 4) REVIEW: GR will send the draft exhibition link out again. If you find any problems with either the content or the presentation (try it on laptops, tablets, smartphones, etc.), please let GR know immediately so that we can make changes!

## **WALKING TOUR**

- 1) BROCHURE / HANDOUT = EW has designed an awesome draft of a folded brochure/handout for our walking tour. If you have any feedback on the design, please share with EW. Let's shoot for creating a final draft for our next August meeting.
- 2) TOUR GUIDES = RB has agreed to train as our first volunteer tour guide! If anyone else is interested in being a volunteer tour guide for our walking tour, please let GR know immediately. We will begin training as soon as possible.
- 3) PROMOTION = Similar to the exhibition, we should consider announcing the walking tour's availability to...
  - a. Relevant college and university departments and faculty
  - b. Local LGBTQ organizations and institutions
  - c. LGBTQ facebook groups (RW has a good list)
  - d. Relevant high school teachers? GSAs?
  - e. Local museums and cultural institutions
  - f. Statewide LGBTQ organizations?

## **ARCHIVES**

- 1) NEW ITEMS: Over the summer, an anonymous donor, as well as the History Project, made some new donations to the physical archives at the Virginia Room. GR also scanned a few more items into the Shared Shelf digital archive.
- 2) NEXT STEPS:
  - a. NEW DONORS: We identified at least two individuals in the community with incredible document collections who GR will follow-up with this next month about making a donation to our archives
  - b. SCANNING: Once our next student Work-Study Research Assistant comes onboard in September, perhaps we can continue scanning in archival material online. We'll see...

## **ORAL HISTORIES**

- 1) RECRUITING SUBJECTS: We discussed focusing on queer women this time around, and have a working list of five possible oral history narrators. GR will approach this month.

- a. Concerns were raised that these five women, however, are all white. What about queer people of color? RB will reach out to her contacts among the local #BlackLivesMatter group to see if any young queer people of color are interested in being interviewed for our project, too.
- 2) TRAINING INTERVIEWERS: as before, GR is pleased to provide training to any community member who wants to learn how to do oral histories. Training will begin in early September and last one month. Please let GR know if you are interested in participating!

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

- 1) Our guest speaker, Lena McDonald from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, could not make it. She will plan to attend our August meeting instead.
- 2) Other ideas that came up:
  - a. Reach out to *Roanoke Times* about getting their Trade Winds image to use in our exhibit and/or walking tour
  - b. Contact *Unite Virginia*: Where is the essay SM wrote for the magazine about our project???
  - c. Contact Amy at the *Roanoke Times* to pitch a possible piece about our 1) walking tour launch; 2) exhibit launch; 3) anniversary party/workshop.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- 1) Our next meeting will be Thursday, August 25, 5:30 – 7:30 pm @ Parrott Room, Roanoke Public Library
- 2) Between now and August's meeting, let's design, produce, and purchase everything we need for our Pride in the Park booth
- 3) Recruit volunteers for the Pride Parade, and Pride in the Park booth
- 4) Start doing targeted invites of key community members to attend our CoLab party/workshop on Sept. 20
- 5) Set up gayliberationroanoke.org website
- 6) Begin making a list of community contacts to target with promoting both our exhibit and walking tour
- 7) Recruit walking tour guides and begin tour guide training
- 8) Reach out to potential archives donors
- 9) Recruit oral history narrators and recruit volunteers interested in training as interviewers
- 10) Have fun!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Thursday, August 25, 5:30 – 7:30pm: our next monthly History Project meeting

Saturday, September 10: Pride Parade

Sunday, September 11: our booth at Pride in the Park

Sunday, September 18, 2pm – 4pm: Kick-off Tour for the Downtown Roanoke  
LGBTQ History Walking Tour

Tuesday, September 20, 6pm – 8pm: One-Year Anniversary Celebration / Year-Two  
Visioning Workshop

Sunday, September 25, 2pm-4pm: Second Kick-off Tour for the Downtown Roanoke  
LGBTQ History Walking Tour

Sunday, October 23, 2pm-4pm: Walking Tour

Sunday, November 20, 2pm-4pm: Walking Tour

Sat/Sun, December 3-4: plan something in conjunction with the Old Southwest  
Parlor Tours event, highlighting Old Southwest's history as Roanoke's gayborhood?

Sunday, December 11, 2pm-4pm: Walking Tour