

Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project
General Interest Meeting at the Roanoke Public Libraries
May 16, 2023

Attendance: 2

Meeting Minutes:

- 1) ARCHIVES
 - a) BRLP digitization complete. Modest media coverage of that.
 - b) Website migration at some point this summer?
- 2) ORAL HISTORIES
 - a) Free Community Oral History Workshop, launching summer 2023 at Roanoke College. May 22nd registration deadline for participants! - GSR
 - i) We discussed some possible narrators who could be interviewed for the project - KS
- 3) PODCAST
 - a) Possible Fall 2023 semester project (Episode 6) on LGBTQ housing and homelessness
- 4) WALKING TOURS
 - a) Videos highlighting the Market area and Elmwood Park stops on the Downtown tour - they turned out great! - KS
 - i) In the future, KS wants to do highlight/overview reels for each of the three walking tours
 - b) For Pride in June we will have THREE walking tours. Create flyer/graphic advertising these tours? - reuse flyer from last year - GSR
 - c) tour guide training & staffing: Saturday, August 12, 10am for new guides - GSR
 - i) Do any veteran guides want to learn other tours? KS knows Salem Avenue; we moved things around so that she can lead the tour later this year
 - d) Proposed changes to walking tours
 - i) Revisions to Downtown tour - we discussed many changes to the tour script. GSR will type up revisions and send them out to the core group of tour guides for review, with the goal of training new guides in August on the newly revised tour!
- 5) TRANS WELLNESS FUND
 - a) Launched April 1st!
 - b) Updates:
 - i) 11 applicants, as of May 1
 - ii) \$1,500 in the bank, as of May 1
 - iii) Question about a process for emergency funding

- iv) Committee will meet in July to make decisions
- c) To do: GSR will amplify the fund on social media again, as well as send an update to committee members

6) EVENTS

- i) Bar crawl Friday, April 28 - KS
 - (1) It went great! Largest turnout ever, with about 30 participants
 - (2) Next year:
 - (a) Call bars ahead of time and let them know we're coming
 - (b) Replace Billy's with 202 Social House
 - (c) Don't schedule the crawl on Pride weekend, so that we can reasonably afford entry into The Park!
 - (d) Look into making a small batch of more #MakeRoanokeQueerAgain hats
- ii) June Pride Picnic (Queer Community Picnic), Tuesday, 6/20 @ Wasena Park - KS
 - (1) Planning is going well. We are just days away from beginning to advertise - KS
 - (2) Policy for group sponsorships/participation
 - (a) Good group of co-sponsors/hosts on board for leading the event
 - (b) SARA reached out just to have a table at the event; we approved
 - (c) If other groups reach out, they can set up tables on their own, and KS will make decisions (bringing any thorny ones to the group for advice, if that comes up)

7) MAPPING TRANS JOY PROJECT (LOUISIANA)

- a) "Based on the work we've been doing with the first phase of the project, we like the idea of expanding it. However, we know that we've been immersed in the project for some time. We'd love the opportunity to talk to other people, particularly folks doing queer documentation in different ways, and to have a reality check: Is this something that seems like a good idea? Based on what you know and the folks you spend time with, does this seem important? If this were to launch, do you think people would participate (would members of SWVA LGBTQ+ History Project yourselves want to participate)? In short, we want to move cautiously and intentionally. To that end we're hoping to compile what we're calling "community partners" to help us (1) think about the project as a whole; and, should we move forward, (2) promote it within their communities."
- b) We agreed to let them know that we're open to promoting the project, and inviting people individually to participate, but as an org we can't do any lifting in terms of organizing or planning for this project

8) NEXT MEETING

a) Tuesday, July 11th, 6pm