

Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project
General Interest Meeting at the Roanoke Public Libraries
July 11, 2023

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE: 2

1) ARCHIVES

- a) Website migration at some point this summer? - no comment
- b) New Roanoke College research assistant starting in September
 - i) digitization updates - will proceed with digitizing MCC newsletter from the 1990s

2) ORAL HISTORIES

- a) Free Community Oral History Workshop, launching summer 2023 at Roanoke College
 - i) Updates?
 - (1) KS: interview w/ L coming up this weekend; perhaps more interviews to come
 - (2) Some concern about not having a clear trajectory for future interviews
- b) PK oral history status - reviewed

3) PODCAST

- a) Possible Fall 2023 semester project (Episode 6) on LGBTQ housing and homelessness - GSR
 - i) Podcast launch event on World AIDS Day (Dec 1)?

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
 - (1) KS: Salem Ave tour reel is in production!
- b) For Pride in June we had THREE walking tours
 - i) Updates? - solid attendance; nothing spectacular, but not bad either
- c) tour guide training & staffing: Saturday, August 12, 10am for new guides - GSR
 - i) 2 new guide RSVP'd, as of July 8th
- d) Downtown tour revisions
 - i) Revisions to Downtown tour - GSR sent out revisions in May; we will train new and veteran guides on new script on August 12th!

- e) Charging \$ for private tours - pros/cons/rationale - GSR
 - i) 50% to tour guide, 50% to trans fund?
 - (1) KS: I like tours being free; they're not a transaction
 - (2) LM: Call it a "suggested donation of \$100," via PayPal or Venmo to GSR; then distribute \$50 to the tour guide

5) TRANS WELLNESS FUND

- a) Summer round of applications is over! Fall round is now open (deadline September 30th)
- b) Updates:
 - i) 21 applications received (includes some duplicates), as of June 30th deadline, for summer funding cycle
 - ii) 0 applications received so far for the fall funding cycle (July 1 - Sep 30)
 - iii) \$1,500 in the bank, as of June 30th
 - iv) Question about a process for emergency funding
 - (1) Not possible as long as the committee meets once every three months. To give emergency funding, committee members would have to be active on a weekly, if not daily, basis
 - v) Committee will meet in July to make decisions
- c) Donations:
 - i) \$77 raised by a volunteer to donate to our fund. How should we process this?
 - (1) KS: would like to see a process for taking in donations; others have suggested fundraising & donating to the fund
 - (2) GSR will take in the \$77 as a one-time exception. But the project should continue to emphasize that we do NOT accept donations because we don't have a structure set up to take them
 - (3) After the committee dispenses the first round of funding, we should have a meeting (or at next project meeting) to discuss the pros/cons of incorporating as a non-profit so as to have a bank account that can accept donations; or, to partner with an existing non-profit (such as LGBR) that can act as the financial steward of the fund (would entail meeting and signing some kind of agreement of cooperation with the History Project)

6) EVENTS

- i) June Pride Picnic (Queer Community Picnic), Tuesday, 6/20 @ Wasena Park - KS
 - (1) How did it go?
 - (a) KS: "Picnic went well despite the looming storm clouds! About 70 attendees although I was hoping for triple that. The planning went well, reaching out to

co-sponsors/Roanoke Parks/logistics and publicity on the schedule that we did. The group of sponsors was solid and everyone helped contribute. We had groups like SWVA Pride and Park Chapel Church volunteer to donate food ahead of time, and the community provided so much food and joy. SARA Roanoke attended as a visiting org rather than a co-host. Next year I would do the same thing with timing, co hosts, reserving the space, posting the flyer, etc. After the event is initially posted and shared by co-hosts, I would consider reaching out to other supportive groups (SARA, Park Chapel, MCC, SWVA Pride, the LGBT group at VT, the Carilion group maybe) just as an invitation to share the event and attend as community members. Since we dealt with weather this year, I think we're much more prepared to deal with possible future weather concerns."

7) NEXT MEETING

- a) Tuesday, September 19, 6pm @ Parrott Room