

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

8 people in attendance.

AGENDA

(6-6:05pm): Check-ins
(6:05-6:25pm): ARCHIVES
(6:25-6:40pm): ORAL HISTORIES
(6:40-6:55pm): WALKING TOUR
(6:55-7:10pm): DIGITAL EXHIBITION
(7:10-7:20pm): PUBLIC RELATIONS
(7:20-7:35pm): SEPTEMBER 2016 PLANS
(7:35pm): Departure

ARCHIVES

- 1) DIGITAL ARCHIVES:
<http://www.socommons.org/openlibrary/welcome.html#3|collections|7730775||Southwest20Virginia20LGBTQ2B20History20Project||>
 - a. We have completed uploading all the *Big Lick Gayzettes* and *Virginia Gayzettes* from the 1970s.
- 2) PHYSICAL ARCHIVES:
 - a. STATUS OF COLLECTION: We are now up to ten donors, and have nearly fifty folders of material in our archives box at the Virginia Room.
 - i. Our website now reflects the expanded content of our physical archives: <http://lgbthistory.pages.roanoke.edu/physical-archives/>
 - b. ARCHIVES COLLECTION EVENTS:
 - i. UU Church (partnership with OUUT) (April 4): one return donor came and gave several magazines and newsletters from the 2010s.
 - ii. MCC Church (April 24): one return donor came and gave a single item from the 2010s.
 - iii. INTIMATE PATH?: IP is aware of our project. Their next dinner is at a restaurant this Saturday, April 30. It is not clear that any History Project members will attend.
 - iv. REVIEW of Archives Collection Events as a tactic:
 1. DG: Not very successful. Perhaps we should stick with the RDC as a central drop-off site for materials?
 2. GR: these events have been successful in bringing in new donors, but not a lot of actual stuff.

3. We decided that perhaps the best path in the fall is to retire the Archives Collection Event idea, and focus instead on targeting specific individuals in the community who are known to have unique and invaluable materials. We need to patiently work on building relationships with these potential donors.
 - a. Also, information for potential donors is on our website, with contact info for the Virginia Room and/or the History Project, if someone wants to inquire about making a donation.
- 3) Policy on THREE-DIMENSIONAL OBJECTS: Key members were absent for this discussion, so we have tabled it (again) and will put it on the agenda for the fall.

ORAL HISTORIES

- 1) Fourteen INTERVIEWS have been completed (<http://lgbthistory.pages.roanoke.edu/oral-histories>).
 - a. Some STATS on the project:
 - i. 281 pages of transcripts
 - ii. Over 10 hours of audio recordings
 - iii. GR has prepared a 13-page subject index to the collection
 - iv. Nearly 50 people participated in the project in some shape or form!
 - v. Congrats to all!!
 - b. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY: Deposition of the recordings, transcripts, and subject index at the Virginia Room will occur on Tuesday, May 3. Hopefully the materials will be available online within a week of that date... it's all dependent on the Virginia Room's time/labor availability to do this for us.
- 2) NEXT ROUND OF INTERVIEWS:
 - a. FALL 2016: We need to recruit 4-5 new interview subjects for September/October interviews.
 - i. GR: let's focus on recruiting lesbians who can speak to the history of Roanoke's lesbian community, something we are almost completely lacking in our research. We also should continue to focus on recruiting non-white subjects and non-cisgender subjects.
 - b. SPRING 2017: We aim to interview yet another 8-10 people in the new year.

WALKING TOUR

- 1) Review of April 10 PRACTICE RUN of walking tour: About one dozen people participated in this test-run of the tour. All seemed to enjoy it! We have received substantive feedback from one participant so far. His comments:
 - a. Where are the lesbians? --- we need to incorporate more lesbian history into the tour.
 - b. What about HIV/AIDS? --- we need to incorporate more history of the AIDS crisis into the tour.
 - c. The trek to Tradewinds is very long (and uphill) --- we need to continue to consider ways to make the Tradewinds story more accessible without hurting people's feet from too much walking!
- 2) TOUR SCRIPT: The next step is to incorporate the feedback we got on April 10, as well as incorporate more data from the oral histories, and do another test-run in late summer!
 - a. AN ALL-MOBILITIES TOUR: We discussed how this tour necessitates having its own script, and a different route, and we just don't have time to write such a tour between now and September. There's also the idea that we should perfect the walking tour first before venturing into offshoots of the tour. Unfortunately, this means that we will not have an all-mobilities-friendly option when we launch this project in September. But we can work on these options for the next year. Some of the ideas proposed:
 - i. Bus/van tour
 - ii. Video version of the tour, that people can watch on their computers or on their phones
 - iii. Audio version of tour, using geolocation, that people can do at their own pace on their own time.
- 3) SCHEDULE OF ROLL-OUT:
 - a. NEXT TEST-RUN: Sunday, August 14, 2-4pm?
 - i. There was the suggestion to create a one-page map of the tour as a guide and a souvenir for tour participants to carry and take home with them. Great idea! We will produce this handout in preparation for our next test-run of the tour in August.
 - b. PUBLIC LAUNCH: Pride in the Park is the weekend of Sep. 10-11. So we plan the following schedule of tours for September:
 - i. Sunday, Sept. 18, 2pm = WALKING TOUR
 - ii. Sunday, Sept. 25, 2pm = WALKING TOUR
 - iii. If folks have different ideas for the best time to schedule these—say Saturday afternoon versus Sunday afternoon—please let us know.
 - c. SUBSEQUENT SCHEDULE OF TOURS: Once a month starting in October 2016.
 - i. GR hopes to train Roanoke College students to learn and lead the tour as we continue into 2017.

DIGITAL EXHIBITION

- 1) CONTENT: GR showed the “Coming Out” exhibition as it currently stands: it is about 20-30 slides in length, with a mix of maps, photographs, newspaper clippings, and oral history excerpts as illustrative media. Textual content is written for every slide. GR is working on writing HTML script to add hyperlinks and other bells and whistles to the project.
- 2) FULL DRAFT FOR REVIEW: The goal is June 1 to complete a full draft of the exhibition. At that time, we will find a way to share the exhibition via the internet with project members so to get everyone’s feedback (with three months to go before the exhibition’s public launch in September).
- 3) EXHIBITION BOOTH at PRIDE IN THE PARK: By mid-July we should purchase the following items for our exhibition booth:
 - a. Purchase iPad
 - i. Or maybe there’s a place that does rentals?
 - b. Purchase exhibition-style mount for the tablet device
 - c. Purchase unique domain/URL for the “Coming Out” exhibition
 - d. HOW TO PAY FOR THIS STUFF? See discussion below under the topic of September 2016 plans.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 1) PR IDEAS (ongoing and/or brainstormed):
 - a. ROANOKE TIMES: A reporter and several photographers have been documenting our project. Their piece is scheduled to be published on Tuesday, May 3!
 - b. ROANOKE TIMES, “Discover: History & Heritage” magazine: GR met with a features writer who is preparing a brief essay about gay liberation in Roanoke (1970s) for their 1950-1975 issue. This piece will be published in late May / early June?
 - c. UNITE VA MAGAZINE: SM has submitted an essay about the History Project that should appear in May.
 - d. DG: suggestion of reaching out to *The Roanoker* about doing a “40 years later...” piece that reflects on the gay community in 2017 versus in 1977 when they published the article “What it’s like to be gay in Roanoke.” Great idea!
- 2) #MAKEROANOKEQUEERAGAIN BAR CRAWL: This Friday, April 29!
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1584665371847572/>
- 3) LGBTQ MEET & GREET EVENT @ The Park. Tuesday, May 10, 4-7pm. We will have a table there to promote the History Project.
 - a. GR & VL have volunteered to staff the table.
 - b. GR will produce a one-page description of our project—a handout—that we can distribute from our table at the event.

SEPTEMBER 2016 PLANS

1) PRIDE WEEK

- a. Elect a PRIDE IN THE PARK POINT PERSON for the History Project.
 - i. RW has volunteered for this role. He will report back later this summer on the details about participating in Pride in the Park.
- b. Pride Week TO-DOs:
 - i. Need to reserve a booth for Pride in the Park – RW
 - ii. Need to design a banner (w/ logo) for our booth and/or the Pride Parade
 1. GR showed off the logo that an anonymous young man is developing for our project. People generally think it looks good!
 - iii. Design pamphlets to hand out at Pride about our project?
 1. TV: We should designate volunteers to work on developing both the banner and the literature over the summer, because it will be too late to start this work in late July when the History Project regroups again.
 2. ... any volunteers?
 - iv. Digital exhibition presented at our Pride in the Park booth
 - v. HOW TO PAY FOR ALL THIS STUFF:
 1. We should prepare an itemized budget of all Pride Week expenses, then advertise this budget to all History Project members, soliciting volunteers to pay for individual items on the list. That way no money exchanges hands between History Project members; rather individual donors will pay for individual items to the benefit of all of us!
- c. ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY / YEAR-TWO VISIONING WORKSHOP
 - i. Tentative date: how about Tuesday, September 20, evening?
 - ii. There was some debate about whether to push this party/workshop off to mid-October, but then again, we will have a paid Research Assistant for the Project starting in September and this “visioning workshop” is essential for determining what kind of projects she might work on!
 - iii. We need to put this on the agenda again for our next meeting, so as to finalize a date, location, and time.
- d. SUMMERTIME HIATUS:

- i. Due to the absence of Roanoke College faculty, staff, and students over the summer, we reached consensus on going on “hiatus” for the summer. The History Project will resume in late July.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 28, 5:30 – 7:30 pm @ Parrott Room, Roanoke Public Library?
- 2) In Fall 2016, focus on targeting individual donors for our Archives initiative.
- 3) Complete phase one of our Oral History Initiative in May! Then begin recruiting 4-5 interview subjects for Fall 2016 interviews.
- 4) Update our walking tour script. Make a one-page map/handout for walking tour participants.
- 5) Complete a full draft of the Digital Exhibition by June 1. Send around for review.
- 6) Produce a one-page handout for our tabling event on May 10 at The Park.
- 7) Look into the costs/expenses/rules for participating in Pride in the Park. Make an itemized budget for the event. Recruit volunteers to cover expenses.
- 8) Work with artist to complete the History Project logo. Design a banner for our booth/parade.
- 9) Design literature/handouts/materials for our Pride in the Park booth.
- 10) Have fun. ☺
- 11) Make Roanoke Queer Again!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, April 29: #MakeRoanokeQueerAgain Bar Crawl!
[<https://www.facebook.com/events/1584665371847572/>]

Tuesday, May 3: deposition of oral history recordings, transcripts, and index @ Virginia Room

Tuesday, May 10: LGBTQ Meet & Greet Event @ The Park

By June 1: completion of full draft of our digital exhibition

By mid-July: begin purchasing materials for our booth at Pride in the Park

Thursday, July 28, 5:30 – 7:30pm: our next monthly History Project meeting?

Sunday, August 14, 2pm – 4pm: next Test-Run of the LGBTQ+ History Walking Tour?

Saturday/Sunday, September 10-11: Pride in the Park Festival @ Elmwood Park

Sunday, September 18, 2pm – 4pm: Launch of the LGBTQ+ History Walking Tour

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