

**Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project**  
**General Interest Meeting at the Roanoke Public Libraries**  
**March 14, 2023**

Attendance: 5

Meeting Minutes:

- 1) ARCHIVES
- 2) LIBRARY
  - a) GSR: send TH guidelines for cataloging books for the RDC's use
- 3) ORAL HISTORIES
  - a) Community Oral History Workshop - launching summer 2023 at Roanoke College - GSR
- 4) PODCAST
- 5) WALKING TOURS
  - a) KS has made videos highlighting the Market area and Elmwood Park stops on the Downtown tour
    - i) We discussed when and where to post these. The pros/cons of having a TikTok account. (It may not make sense to have a TikTok account if we're not doing daily videos.) We could always just post to reels—since we already have an IG following
    - ii) Idea: post the three videos once a week in the three weeks leading up to the next downtown tour (last week of April + first two weeks of May)
  - b) tour guide training & staffing
  - c) Proposed changes to walking tours
    - i) Revisions to Downtown tour - workshop ideas
      - (1) We didn't have the members, or preparation, to have this discussion so we are pushing the workshopping back to our May meeting
- 6) EVENTS
  - i) Bar crawl Friday, April 28
    - (1) KS excited to lead
    - (2) Adapting from last year's path - KS proposing cutting a stop (likely whichever one was least friendly to the group last year) so we can get to Golden Cactus before it closes and bump up the final stops
      - (i) We debated this, but believed that stopping at the Front Row (which was quite welcoming to

us last year, and is a historic gay bar site) is better than Golden Cactus. See amended schedule below:

- (b) 7pm: Meet inside City Market Building (or outside Salem Avenue entrance if the building is closed)
  - (c) 7:15pm: The Trade Winds / Billy's
  - (d) 8pm: The Last Straw / 2 Chill
  - (e) 8:45pm: Nite & Day / Cuba Pete's
  - (f) 9:30pm: Murphy's Super Disco / Martin's
  - (g) 10:15pm: The Horoscope / The Front Row
    - (i) Also be prepared to discuss the history of Backstreet before we go inside
  - (h) 11pm: The Park
- (3) Start advertising at least one month out (so by March 28th)
- ii) June Pride Picnic (Queer Community Picnic)
- (1) Tentative Tuesday, 6/20
    - (a) GSR will reach out to last year's co-sponsors to confirm date
  - (2) Reserving Wasena Park shelter
    - (a) TH: we should be able to get it for free as a 'neighborhood' organization
  - (3) Policy for group sponsorships/participation
    - (a) We discussed and debated this for a long while. The de facto policy from last year is: only local grassroots queer & ally orgs are allowed to be co-sponsors, have their name on publicity materials, etc. Other institutions (gov't; corporations; etc.) can have an informal table at the event, but NOT be co-sponsors.
    - (b) Debate concerned why and if we should accept money from large institutions/corporations. One idea was to ask these groups to pay \$ to have a spot/table at the picnic. But we don't have a treasury/budget so taking money is complicated.
    - (c) Another idea is for us to set a fixed budget for the event (say \$200, to cover purchasing food, etc.) and then ask major institutions/corporations to pay for these things, but don't give them any props for it
    - (d) The final decision of this meeting is:
      - (i) We will start advertising the picnic once our original co-sponsors on board

- (ii) As institutions/corporations/gov't reach out, we will keep a list of their requests for participation and...
    - (iii) Bring those to the May meeting to make final decisions on
  - iii) Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Foundation, new exhibit on *Quare Appalachia* opening in fall 2023 (discuss if representative from museum comes to the meeting)
    - (1) A representative did not attend. We decided that we do not want to participate/help with this exhibit.
- 7) TRANS WELLNESS FUND - GSR
  - a) Updated [proposal](#) with feedback from committee
    - i) Requires final approval from history project
      - (1) Approval was given, with some additional comments/questions for the committee
- 8) 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."
    - i) Did not discuss. Can debate/decide on at May meeting.
- 9) NEXT MEETING
  - a) Tues, May 16, 6pm @ Parrott Room. Who wants to lead the meeting?