

**Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project  
General Meeting at the Roanoke Public Library  
August 25, 2016**

7 people in attendance.

**AGENDA**

(6-6:05pm): Check-ins  
(6:05-6:35pm): SEPTEMBER PLANS  
(6:35-6:45pm): DIGITAL EXHIBITION  
(6:45-6:55pm): WALKING TOUR  
(6:55-7pm): ARCHIVES  
(7pm-7:10pm): ORAL HISTORIES  
(7:10-7:30pm): COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
(7:30pm): Departure

**SEPTEMBER PLANS**

- 1) PRIDE PARADE, Saturday, Sep 10, 4pm (line-up at 3pm)
  - a. VOLUNTEERS: sign-up on the Google Spreadsheet
- 2) PRIDE IN THE PARK, Sunday, Sept. 11, all day
  - a. FB event page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1725055281105471/>
  - b. Stuff to bring
    - i. Canopy = JB drops off to GR on Sep. 6
    - ii. Table and chairs = GR will get from History Dept.
    - iii. Decorations = RW is decorations chair
    - iv. Banner = It's done and is stored in the History Dept!
      1. GR will buy pericord to use to hang the banner in the canopy
    - v. Literature to hand out =
      1. Walking Tour Brochure = EW will produce final draft
        - a. We agreed to print on normal paper for now, rather than fancy paper
      2. "Save the Date" card for CoLab 9/20 event
      3. Gayliberationroanoke.org flyers
      4. One-page sheet about our project = GR has 80 leftover copies from the last event
      5. *Big Lick Gayzette* copies
      6. #MakeRoanokeQueerAgain hats
      7. REMEMBER to bring paperweights to hold down the literature!
  - c. VOLUNTEERS = Sign-up on the Google Spreadsheet

- 3) ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY / YEAR-TWO VISIONING WORKSHOP, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 6-8pm @ the CoLab
  - a. FB event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1223524037678614/>
  - b. FOOD & DRINK = Remember it is a potluck. GR is providing cake and drinks and paper products; everyone else should bring a small food item to share.
  - c. PROMOTION =
    - i. TARGETED INVITES: Please think of at least five people in the Southwest Virginia LGBTQ community who you think should be part of the History Project, and make a direct invite to them to attend our CoLab event!
      1. One idea: reach out to the Virginia Mountain Bears. RW has contact info?
- 4) OTHER SEPTEMBER STUFF:
  - a. Thurs, Sep. 1, 8pm: GR is giving a talk “Queer History after Orlando” at Mill Mountain Coffeehouse in Salem. All are invited! [https://www.roanoke.edu/events/coffee\\_shop\\_talk\\_queer\\_history\\_after\\_orlando](https://www.roanoke.edu/events/coffee_shop_talk_queer_history_after_orlando)
  - b. Tues, Sep. 6, 7pm: Roanoke Pride is hosting a “SWVA LGBT History Project Forum.” Our project is somehow involved, although so far it is unclear in promotional materials exactly how our project is involved: <https://www.facebook.com/events/289315941448270/>

### **DIGITAL EXHIBITION**

- 1) DOMAIN NAME is purchased
- 2) LAUNCH DATE = Monday morning, Sept. 12
- 3) PROMOTION = We will begin promoting the exhibit on Sept. 12. Please consult and add to the “Promotional Strategy” Google Spreadsheet to help us with this task!
- 4) REVIEW: GR will send the draft exhibition link out again. Please look for typos and glitches in these last two weeks before it goes public!

### **WALKING TOUR**

- 1) BROCHURE = Everyone thinks EW’s brochure looks really professional and is awesome.
- 2) TOUR GUIDES = GR is currently training one guide, RB. If anyone else wants to train to be one of our volunteer tour guides, please just say so. We can start training at anytime.
  - a. GR is leading the 9/18 kick-off tour
  - b. RB is leading the 9/25 kick-off tour

- 3) PROMOTION = We agreed to start promoting the walking tour NOW. We will use the “Promotional Strategy” Google Spreadsheet.
- 4) LOCAL LAWS = GR will check local laws to see if Roanoke City requires a sightseeing guide license or anything of the sort for us to operate our tours.

## **ARCHIVES**

- 1) UPDATES: no new acquisitions, although one donor is in the process of collecting materials for possible donation to our archive. These are rare and essential newsletters/newspapers from the late 1970s and 1980s.
- 2) LGBT LIBRARY: We discussed and approved partnering with the Roanoke Diversity Center in helping to renew and reopen their LGBT Library as a permanent research collection at the RDC location.
  - a. GR will present a library plan to the RDC Board for approval on Sep. 3. If approved, then GR will start meeting with and training History Project volunteers to start the cataloging process.

## **ORAL HISTORIES**

- 1) RECRUITMENT: We have four confirmed women for our Oral Herstories initiative. Ideally we’d have five confirmed. Four is the bare minimum needed to make this work.
- 2) TRAINING INTERVIEWERS: GR is pleased to provide training to any community member who wants to learn how to do oral histories.
- 3) It was also noted that if anyone ever expresses interest in participating in the Oral History Project, please collect their name and contact information. We can never promise that we will interview them, but we should start compiling a list of names for Phase 3 of interviewing, which will take place in February/March 2017.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

- 1) RANDOM IDEAS:
  - a. Reach out to *The Roanoker* magazine about doing a “40 years later...” piece on “What it’s like to be gay in Roanoke”?
  - b. Saturday, Sep. 24, 1pm – 4pm: Richmond Lesbian and Gay History Bus Tour: anyone interested in carpooling out there to attend this tour? If so, please contact GR about the details:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1041369869250073/>
  - c. Tuesday, Nov. 8, 11am: we need a couple History Project members to speak to Dr. Rosenthal’s “Introduction to Public History” class on this date and time about your involvement in the project and why it is important to you

- i. VL has volunteered, tentatively; others should contact GR
- 2) GUEST SPEAKER: Lena McDonald, National/State Register Historian for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) discussed the DHR's statewide LGBTQ Heritage Initiative, and how our two projects can partner together. Here are some ideas:
  - a. SHARING LITERATURE: We will be providing DHR with some of our literature for them to display at Richmond Pride in late September. Vice versa, we are pleased to showcase DHR LGBTQ Heritage Initiative literature at our booth at Pride in the Park on Sep. 11.
  - b. MAPPING PROJECT: We may share our mapping data with DHR to include in their statewide map of historic LGBTQ places
  - c. TIMELINE / REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES / etc.: We can provide data for the expansion of these documents to include more Southwest Virginia-specific material
  - d. Two larger, more ambitious ideas include proposing an LGBTQ HIGHWAY MARKER for somewhere in Roanoke.
    - i. It will cost \$1,600 which we would have to raise.
    - ii. The max amount of text on the marker is 100 words
    - iii. It would need to be located alongside a public road on public property
    - iv. DHR would approve, design, and fabricate the marker to statewide standards
    - v. So... if we could choose one location in the Roanoke Valley that best represents the LGBTQ history story, what would that location be? And what would the marker say?
  - e. The other idea is to NOMINATE an LGBTQ PLACE for the National Register of Historic Places. The place should be at least fifty years old, and needs to meet other criteria as well.
    - i. Nominations are honorary, but they do help build a case, long-term, for the historic preservation of that building
    - ii. So... if we could choose any building or structure in Southwest Virginia that best represents the LGBTQ history story, what would that be? What historic place would we most want to save?

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- 1) Our next meeting will actually be our Anniversary Party/Workshop at the CoLab on Tuesday, September 20, 6pm-8pm. Bring a small food item. Invite your friends:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1223524037678614/>
- 2) Get last-minute items and print everything we need for our Pride in the Park booth on Sep. 11
- 3) Please Volunteer for the Pride Parade (Sep. 10) and for the Pride in the Park booth (Sep. 11). We need more volunteers!

- 4) Directly invite key community members to attend our CoLab party/workshop on Sept. 20. Please invite at least five people you know.
- 5) Review the exhibition draft one last time. Check for typos and technical bugs.
- 6) Become a volunteer tour guide for our walking tour! Help with promotional outreach of the tour.
- 7) Volunteer to help with the LGBT Library cataloging project at the RDC
- 8) Get involved with the oral history project
- 9) Really, the goal for the next four weeks is to promote the hell out of our project and promote the hell out of our upcoming events!
- 10) Have fun. ☺

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Thursday, September 1, 8pm: “Queer History After Orlando” public lecture at Mill Mountain Coffeehouse, Main Street, Salem

[https://www.roanoke.edu/events/coffee\\_shop\\_talk\\_queer\\_history\\_after\\_orlando](https://www.roanoke.edu/events/coffee_shop_talk_queer_history_after_orlando)

Tuesday, September 6, 7pm: “SWVA LGBT History Project Forum” at The Park, hosted by Roanoke Pride

<https://www.facebook.com/events/289315941448270/>

Saturday, September 10, 4pm: Pride Parade (line-up at 3pm)

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

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1725055281105471/>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/events/522489177962008/>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1223524037678614/>

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

Thursday, October 13, 5:30pm – 7:30pm: General Meeting at location TBD?

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