

**Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project**  
**Meeting at the Roanoke Public Libraries**  
**September 19, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: 2

Meeting Minutes

1) ARCHIVES

- a) New Roanoke College research assistant started in September
- b) New graduate-level (MLIS) intern from Old Dominion University also started in September
  - i) digitization updates - will proceed with digitizing MCC newsletter from the 1990s; not sure what to digitize next (will work with intern on this)
  - ii) Potential intern projects: creating a subject index for the *BRLP*, and possibly other digitized newsletters; possibly creating online / social media content

2) ORAL HISTORIES

- a) KS - update on interview?
  - i) Transcript is almost done; future interviews will focus on working-class lesbian histories
- b) Next community oral history workshop - unclear whether this will happen due to the situation at Roanoke College

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) Have JM cross-post content on TikTok
  - ii) KS - Salem Ave tour reel update? - filmed but needs to be edited
- b) tour guide training & staffing update
  - i) KS will offer tour guide training in March
  - ii) KS will lead one tour a month in 2024 from March to November. There will be no special bump in tours for Pride Month
  - iii) Let's finalize the 2024 tour schedule by December
  - iv) We agreed to cancel the upcoming November 2023 tour
- c) Downtown tour revisions - email KS the tour script
- d) Charging \$ for private tours - this is now "live" on our website

5) TRANS WELLNESS FUND

- a) Summer round of applications is over! Fall round is now open (deadline September 30th)
  - b) Updates:
    - i) 17 applications received in summer round; 3 awarded; \$1,125 distributed; \$452 still in bank.
    - ii) 18 new applications received so far for the fall funding cycle (July 1 - Sep 30; decisions will be made in October/November)
  - c) Donations:
    - i) From last meeting: 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)
      - (1) Resource on mutual aid fund management:  
<https://bcrw.barnard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/mutual-aid-options-for-handling-money.pdf>
      - (2) Decision was made to reach out to LGBR about becoming a fiscal sponsor for the fund. GSR will speak with EJ to get that going. Will need to culminate in a written agreement signed by both parties.
- 6) EVENTS
- a) KS will lead Bar Crawl in April or May; KS will take the lead on the Community Picnic in June
- 7) BREAKING TIES WITH ROANOKE COLLEGE
- a) begin discussion of this process
    - i) We decided to create a new, independent website at [swvalgbtqhistory.org](http://swvalgbtqhistory.org).
    - ii) As for the digital archives, we'll look into preserving our digital archives materials (PDFs and metadata) off of RC platforms so that it can be used in a different, future setting if desired
- 8) NEXT MEETING
- a) Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6pm @ Parrott Room