

AD HOC HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Minutes July 27, 2023

6:05 meeting called to order

Roll Call: Chair Allen Foley, Ian Tomkins, Anna Jacobson, Chief Morris, Miel Castagna-Herrera, Liz Vogel, Tom Madigan
Absent: Kate Raglow, Jim Grebe

Approval of June 22, 2023 meeting minutes moved by Ian and seconded by Miel

Unfinished business

Anna Jacobson is forwarding updates via email to Historical Committee.

Rollin Thru the Years

The book "Rollin Thru the Years" as it exists does not have in text citations. It has source materials but it often does not connect to source. So what do we want to do about that going forward? Do we want to fact check everything? Open to either way, but her agreement is to write suggestions for work but if we want to look at chapters and go through we have a timeline that would allow that.

The book as it exists lacks context and would benefit from context that informs these land transfers that grounds it in history and talks about everything happening around. Very little reference about what was going on in the country, the economy etc. A chunk of the work has been putting this context into history that can give us connections to people living here at that time.

Anna has gone to the mid-America black archives and the role covenants played in this area. Realtor that worked with black and jewish advocates to have fair housing in this area. This is relevant as it impacts social, cultural, and economic issues in this time. Some realtors would use block busting to get whites to move out by getting blacks to move in.

Tom Madigan responded by saying Jewish people responded to this by opening their own neighborhoods where they could live.

Anna says there was an oral history component of original book but it is told without quotes. Allan asks if the book would be rewritten? She said contract is to suggest edits based upon her research.

Allan is wondering if it shouldn't be approached more like "as edited by Anna Jacobson". Anna says an option would be doing a series of essays chapter by chapter. To edit down to where it is just factual she would have to fact check the whole thing. There is a lot of interpretation in it and it would be better to fact check.

Goals for this documents to create signs in 2019 and then update Rollin Through the Years. Original contract included Rollin Thru the Years. More info is available and more has been found out. Example of fact checking of book on Ch. 4 about schools that lacks citations. Original idea of puzzle piecing in facts as well as adding more info.

There is an insertion that the earliest person owning land in RP was someone hung for being a horse thief. Anna checked census records and only found a mention of him needing to appear in court.

Anna feels with the info she's finding would be to do an academic journal like essays about Roeland Park history. She feels that there are certain things that are community memory. We could use the current chapters and put them with social, community, and not necessarily chronological but different essays about this place.

Tom said that his idea we start update from the nineties on. If we can keep it small it would be better but Anna says we can go back farther.

How do we need to do community outreach?

If we need something in newsletter for Oct needs to be in by Sept 15. Send to Doreen.

Anna says if we want to do an oral history part and maybe at community Center. Tom suggests that we can do an oral history board at grand opening of remodeled community center.

Anna can prepare signs as essays based upon a little of what we have.

August meeting agendas will include above as well as historical signage.

Next steps is to reread signage copy. Continue working with community resources, and with Dr.s at K State and KU, handful of oral histories already connected. Reach out to KC Indian Center.

Meeting Adjourned 7:36

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 17 6PM IN PERSON. Tom will check with Kelley to see if room is available.

Meeting notes by Miel Castagna-Herrera