

Roeland Park Historical Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 25th, 2021

Opening: The 2nd meeting of the Roeland Park Historical Committee was called to order at 3pm on Thursday February 25th, 2021 via a Zoom meeting facilitated by Councilman Michael Rebne.

Present: Michael Rebne council liaison, Chief John Morris, Chris Wolff, Jim Grebe, Allen Foley and Pete Masek.

Introductions: Introductions of new members Allen and Pete.

Agenda:

- A. Discussion of whether to add new members to the committee. There was agreement that the committee will most likely need the services of a graphic design artist if it moves forward to the design phase of the historical signs. Allen agreed to make a post on the Next Door Social network to see if an area graphic artist would be willing to join the committee or otherwise offer their expertise. Jim Grebe offered to contact a friend of his, Judy Hide, who may be able help.
- B. Chris Wolff walked the committee through mockups of the 8 signs that were discussed in the first meeting as possibilities.
 1. Stone Santa Fe Trail Marker in front of City Hall. Something similar to the D.A.R. stone in Overland Park and all along the trail route.
 2. The Southridge Market/ Southridge-Buena Vista Studio today
 3. The Roe family farmhouse site. –Roe and Johnson Dr. Today.
 4. The Quarry.-The old pool site.
 5. The Washita Station on the Strang Line/Old Mission Golf Course Clubhouse. 47th terrace and Mohawk circle.
 6. The John Tesar Dairy Farm-54th Terrace and Buena Vista.
 7. Roesland School
 8. Southridge Station on the Strang Line. –Where Quiktrip is today.

The consensus of the committee was that all of these sites with the exception of the old pool site are worthy of a marker or sign.

- C. Michael presented his mockup for a sign that would recognize the role that Roeland Park founders played in housing segregation in Johnson County. The discussion centered around whether a sign of the type we had envisioned for the other sites would be big enough to convey the desired message. There was also discussion on what would be the proper placement of this sign so that it would have the most impact. In front of City Hall

and R. Park were brought up as possible locations both because of their higher foot traffic and because of their symbolic nature. City Hall represents the government of the city, whose history the sign would discuss and R. Park is in the heart of the original segregated neighborhoods developed by Charles Vawter.

- D. The discussion around the “segregated housing sign” prompted Allen to suggest the idea of creating a whole series of signs at R. Park. These signs could be located around the perimeter of the park and could describe in more detail certain aspects of R.P. history than the traditional bronze signs under consideration. A historical sign used by Overland Park was displayed to the group and discussion centered on the possibilities of using such signs at R.Park to create a history walk. Pete mentioned that similar signs used by the city of Lenexa only have a 5-10 year lifespan. The discussion turned to the possibility that the signs could be constructed so that the artwork could easily be replaced or changed when faded or damaged.

The cost of the signage was also briefly discussed. Allen offered to reach out to the Shawnee Indian Mission to ask them about the cost of the signage that they are currently developing to help give the committee an idea of how much the city would be asked to invest in the project.

- E. Two more possible sites were mentioned for representation. Allen mentioned having a sign to document the Shawnee Indians in the area. Pete suggested a sign to commemorate the site of the first Baptist mission to the Shawnees located on Nall. This is also where the first printing press in Kansas was located, which printed books in the Shawnee language.
- F. It was agreed that henceforth the committee will be using the service GotoMeeting. Chris will forward the appropriate links.

Agenda for next meeting:

Allen will advertise on Next Door on behalf of the committee to recruit a graphic artist.

Jim will reach out to his R.P. resident and graphic artist Judy Hide

Allen will contact the Shawnee Mission to see if they would share information with the committee on the cost of new signage they are developing.

Chris will update the Roeland Park City Council on the committees ideas on Monday March, 15.

Chris will forward the GotoMeeting links to committee members.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Next Meeting set at 3pm on March 25th.