

Roeland Park Historical Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 27th, 2021

Present: Michael Rebne, Tom Madigan, Jim Grebe, Allen Foley, Ian Thompkins, Russ McCorkle, Liz Vogel, Peter Macek, Chris Wolff. Chief Morris was not present because he was attending a conference. Laura Savidge has had to withdraw from the committee for personal reasons.

Agenda:

- 1. Santa Fe Trail signage:** Allen discussed two possible options for marking the route of the Santa Fe Trail through Roeland Park. The first is the option to use signage provided by the National Park Service. The second option was to use signage currently under development by the city of Prairie Village to mark the trail in their city. That project is being done in coordination with the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association. The pluses and minuses of both options were discussed. The NPS signs would be provided for free to the city. They would bring the name recognition of the NPS to area signage. Also the NPS has marked historic trails with signage all throughout Kansas, including places in Johnson and Douglas counties. However, the official route of the Santa Fe trail would have to be corrected in our area as the NPS has it incorrectly recorded. We would have to go through the official process of route correction.
The second option, which we referred to as the "Prairie Village Signs", would cost about \$200 a sign. They could be branded with the city name if wanted. However, these signs are really designed for pedestrian traffic and it was agreed that the locations in Roeland Park would be more suited for signs of simpler design for car traffic. The committee voted to take on the Santa Fe trail signs as a project and to pursue the NPS signs.
- 2. Project Mark:** The committee had previously discussed creating a mark or brand for the signs eventually created by the project. Three types of designs were discussed including a text only mark, a mark that included a graphic (such as a Stang Line Car or oak leaf) in conjunction with text and an option of text surrounded by stylized graphic elements. The committee decided to proceed with idea for the third option, choosing the text Historic Roeland Park. The designers on the committee have agreed to work up some ideas for consideration for the next meeting.
- 3. Shawnee Indian interpretive sign:** Michael brought up an idea of creating an interpretive sign to tell the story of the Shawnee Indians and their history in this area that incorporated the input of a Shawnee representative. This person could potentially be an historian or even an artist that could help create such a sign. The committee

agreed that this was an idea worth exploring. Michael agreed to try to develop some contacts to help further develop this idea.

4. **Sites for Interpretive Signs:** The Committee discussed possible locations for the placement of a series of interpretive signs that could tell some of the aspects of Roeland Park's history in a more in depth format that included photos. The Shawnee Indian sign aforementioned would be an example of one such sign. A sign telling the history of the Roe family was also mentioned as a candidate for such a sign. Theoretical locations were discussed including the vacant land surround the St. Luke's facility at Johnson Dr. and Roe, in front of the City Hall and R. Park near the pavilion. The idea was also discussed that perhaps the signs could be dispersed among the small green areas and tiny parks in Roeland Park such as Cooper Creek, Sweany Park and Carpenter Park. Tom agreed to try to discover who owns that vacant land at Johnson DR. and Roe. It appears it is owned by the estate of Rex Hoy. Further discussion with the Parks Committee would be necessary before serious considering any park sites. We agreed to continue the discussion on a site for such a project before planning further on actual signs.

Agenda For Next Meeting:

- a. Follow up on committee update to the city council in June
- b. Follow up on developing a Shawnee Indian partner for possible interpretive sign
- c. Continued discussion on a site for interpretive signs.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm

Next Meeting set at 3pm on Thursday June 24th.