

AD HOC HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Minutes May 23, 2024 at City Hall, Roeland Park, KS

6:03 p.m. meeting called to order by Chair Madigan

Roll Call: Tom Madigan, Allen Foley, Matt Bauer, Ian Tompkins, Anna Jacobson, Jim Grebe.
Guests from the D.E.I. Committee: Harold Morales, Carrie Paulette (joined meeting at 6:35 p.m.)

The agenda was amended: discussion of the Roe sign to be delayed until Carrie joins the meeting.

Minutes of the March meeting was approved.

Unfinished Business

Oral histories: Anna is making list of those long-time residents who wish to share their stories about living in Roeland Park. Comments regarding *Roe'ling through the Years in Roeland Park*. Anna gave an update on her history essays.

For the benefit of Harold and Carrie, Tom summarized our work to date and our proposal of two years ago which included location and interpretive signs and updating *Roe'ling through the Years in Roeland Park*. Phase two of the committee's work would include Santa Fe Trail signs and Otocast virtual history tour.

Anna discussed the history of indigenous tribal groups in our area of Kansas and what she has learned about Rev. Thomas Johnson.

Roe sign: Committee and guests from D.E.I. discussed the sign, its purpose and limitations. Harold and Carrie then stated that they felt comfortable with the sign as proposed with the caveat that the committee would strive for inclusiveness of Native Americans in its ongoing work.

The Roe sign would read:

"In 1883, Irish immigrant and Missouri farmer John Roe purchased approximately 270 acres of the former Shawnee Reservation from the heirs of Thomas Johnson, founder of the Shawnee Methodist Mission. By 1890, Roe had purchased nearly 1600 acres in the area. This sign indicates the site of the Roe's 16 room, 2-story family home, 'The Cedars of Merriam'. The Roe family promoted development in the area, and after John's death in 1920, they sold land to housing developers and donated land for the original Roeland Park Pool and St. Agnes Catholic Church and School. In 1951, the city of Roeland Park was incorporated, including much of the Roe Farm."

Committee Archives: We'll discuss at our June meeting.

Adjournment at 7:24 p.m.

Submitted with respect,
Jim Grebe