

## **AD HOC HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

**Minutes** August 22, 2024 at City Hall, Roeland Park, KS

6:00 p.m. meeting called to order by Chair Madigan

**Roll Call:** Tom Madigan, Ian Tompkins, Matthew Bauer, Liz Vogel, Anna Jacobson, Chief Morris, Jim Grebe.

Minutes of the July meeting was approved.

### **Unfinished Business**

Land Acknowledgement Sign: Anna discussed her Land Acknowledgement ideas (attached) and suggested that this be a starting point as we compose a sign and a longer version for the city's website. She felt it important that we should acknowledge that indigenous cultures are alive today. Committee members agreed that use of the term "genocide" would be proper. The 24X36 sign would include approximately 810 characters and Ian would contact Sewah for a quote when we have a final text.

Oral histories: Anna has interviewed the Mayor and has invited several residents to contribute their histories.

Committee Archives: The committee feels that eventually the archives should be included on the city website.

**New Business:** None

Adjournment at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted with respect,  
Jim Grebe

### **Attachment: Anna's Land Acknowledgement ideas**

Note: The following is intended to be more of a framework for us to discuss, and not a final draft of the land acknowledgement—I am hoping that the guidance provides a good jumping off point for us to work with. I am also aware that this is much longer than may fit on a sign, but I wanted to start with an abundance of information.

We as residents of Roeland Park, Kansas respectfully acknowledge our city as the ancestral homelands of the Kanza (Kaw), as well as the Wahzhazhe (Osage), Jiwere (Otoe) and Nutachi (Missouria) Tribes, and others whose history is unknown to us.

In 1825, the Kaw Nation signed a land cession treaty which reduced their twenty-million-acres across Kansas and Nebraska to a 30-mile wide two-million-acre reservation, approximately from Manhattan to Colby, Kansas. The land ceded by the Kaw in this treaty became reservations for Indigenous peoples and nations forcibly removed to Indian Territory after the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Indigenous peoples were forced to walk from their homelands east of the

Mississippi to Indian Territory in Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma, resulting in deaths caused by illness, starvation, and fatigue.

1.6 million acres of land ceded by the Kaw became the Shawnee Reservation, where Roeland Park would later take shape. Close neighbors to the north of the Shawnee reservation were the Wandat (Wyandotte) and Lenape (Delaware).

We acknowledge more than half of our city's land to have been the site of the Shawnee Manual Labor School, a tool in the acculturation of Indigenous peoples and erasure of Indigenous cultures, with more than 20 Tribes represented in the school's student body. Our county is named after Thomas Johnson, an enslaver and the founder of the Shawnee Manual Labor School. We recognize that in the United States' efforts to consolidate Indigenous identities, Indigenous nations were sometimes combined with one another or dissolved entirely. In our acknowledgment of Indigenous connections to this land we hold space for identities and histories that have been lost or are still unknown to us.

We also acknowledge the four federally recognized Tribes in Kansas: the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.

Displacement of Indigenous peoples occurred across the United States and is not unique to our area. This land acknowledgement is meant to honor and affirm the continuous relationship between the aforementioned nations and peoples have with the land that is now our city. It is also meant to inform residents, so that we may be more aware of the longstanding connections between our land and Indigenous peoples past, present, and future.

(It would be good to end with a commitment to encourage/advance education concerning Indigenous peoples in the area—The work begun by this committee is a great example!)