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March 2018; Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project Minutes

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Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2018

Dramatis Personae: Melissa, Ana, Adrienne, Brigitte, Dani, Amanda

New Website:

Because this is the season of snow flurries and midterms, it took folks a while to trickle in to the meeting. In the beginning, Melissa, Ana, Adrienne, and Brigitte talked about the shiny new Omeka website.

Brigitte began by saying that although we have a lot of digitized material at this point, she is unsure how to upload the material to the website in a manageable, interesting way. Ana replied that she had been given a video of last February's ballroom event by Camille, and that perhaps we could start with that. According to Melissa and Brigitte, our website does not have enough storage space for videos, so we will have to create a YouTube channel. It should be easy to embed YouTube videos into our website.

Adrienne gave the opinion that it would be okay to start the archive portion of our website with just 1-2 videos, and that we needed to really think about the other basic pieces of info that we want to display. This includes an About page (which already exists, thanks to Brigitte), a Contact page, a Past Events page, and putting info about our next meeting and event on the Home page. Adrienne will add our contact info to the webpage herself.

We talked about some additional stuff that we wanted to add to the webpage next. The group wondered if maybe Collin would be interested in posting some stories/essays about his research on the UB Gay Liberation Front, once he's further into that. Ana also suggested that, since Collin and she will be visiting Ari Moore next week for the express purpose of gaining context/captions for the photos she's donated, starting with a collection of her archival materials might make sense (if she's okay with that, of course). Ana also has plenty of pictures for a Past Events page.

At that point, Amanda arrived. She mentioned that she had spent some time playing with the back end of the website, and it seems pretty straightforward. Once she's done designing the posters for our Black in Time event, she'll be ready to work on website design--something pretty minimal, with some banners. Adrienne gave Amanda the History Project logo to rework, if she wanted.

Ultimately, we decided that we wanted to publicly premiere the new website on the summer solstice--so, **Thursday, June 21**.

TL;DR Version: It's time to get serious with the website redesign. It'll go live on the summer solstice.

Assignments:

- *Ana:*
 - Pass videos and photos from past events on to Brigitte.
 - Gather info from Ari; ask if we can put it on website.
- *Adrienne:*
 - Update Contact page on website
 - Ask Collin if he'd be interested in writing about his research on the website.
- *Amanda:*
 - Design logo, banners, overall concept for website.
- *Brigitte and Melissa:*
 - Create YouTube channel for History Project, and upload videos.
 - Add content as necessary to website.
 - Work with Amanda and the rest of the group to get website together by June.

Black in Time Event

Here is a rundown of everything we've accomplished, and everything we need to accomplish for Black in Time (now officially on April 14):

Music:

We have a DJ!!! DJ Remmz, who DJs at Black Men Talking events and at Marcella's ballroom events, has signed a contract and been given a deposit. He knows and is on board with the concept, but it would probably still be a good idea for us to ask people we interview to tell us songs they'd like to hear at the party.

Poster:

Amanda finished the final draft of the poster live at the meeting, and it looks *great!* We have 8.5x11 and 11x17 versions. Our new mission: to print out copies, and distribute them all over the city. We would like to have this done within the next week.

Press:

Adrienne has drafted a press release, and has so far sent said press release to about half of the media contacts on our list. The rest of our media contacts will get the press release by week's end.

Outreach and Archive Collection:

This is still very much a work in progress. Here's where we're at:

- *Unity Fellowship Church:* Adrienne spoke with Rev. Gerard Williams, pastor of the church, last week, and he said he was quite interested. He then asked for a few days to broach the idea to his congregation, and has not been heard from since. In order to facilitate further cooperation with the church, Dani will come up with a few days in which they are available to film stories, and Adrienne will get back to Rev. Williams with possible dates.

- *Black Men Talking*: This is a group we've sort of lost touch with, ever since Mr. Hairston went missing. But DJ Remmz is a member, and he told Ana during their contract conversation that there is a BMT meeting on the 24th of this month. Ana is going to ask if we could possibly do some story filming during their meeting, and Dani is going to see if they have that date free.
- *Reggie Griggs*: Ana hasn't heard from him in a while. She will call him in the next few days. He may consent to come and tell his story live, and not necessarily be filmed.
- *Ebony Johnson*: Just got a new phone number. Adrienne will follow up and call her. She is also a person who may prefer to tell her story live.
- *Ari Moore*: Ana and Collin will go to her place on March 21 to get context/captions for the things she's donated.

MC:

Tinamarie Sweet, our MC, has asked us for some clearer instructions on what we'd like her to do. Amanda pointed out that those instructions depend on the content of the show. Dani will therefore look through our existing clips within the next few days to figure out how we might structure our show.

Next Meeting:

In the past, we talked about having a meeting this coming Sunday, March 18, to prep archival materials for the exhibit. We're not ready for that yet, so that meeting is cancelled. But we'll check in around the 20th to figure out when that meeting should take place. Side note: when we are ready, Brigitte mentioned that her partner Kyle can get stuff for mounting photos cheap through his workplace.

TL;DR Version: Our event is in a month. Many things are in place, but much is left to be done. Look at the assignment list even if you didn't come to the meeting; there's stuff for you to do.

Assignments:

- *Adrienne*:
 - Finish sending out press release.
 - Print out as many posters as you can muster.
 - Distribute some posters to Sweets.
 - Deliver posters around the city.
 - Follow up with Rev. Gerard Williams of Unity Fellowship Church.
 - Follow up with Ebony Johnson.
- *Amanda*:
 - Is available to help people gather and scan archival materials.
 - Find a stamp and ink to use at the door.
- *Dani*:
 - Come up with a few possible days for filming stories at Unity Fellowship Church.

- Open a discussion with Ana and Richard/DJ Remmz about possibly filming at the next Black Men Talking meeting.
- Look through existing film clips and suggest a structure for the event.
- Distribute posters to library system.
- Is also available to help people gather and scan archival materials.
- *Ana:*
 - Open up a discussion with Dani and Richard/DJ Remmz about possibly filming at the next Black Men Talking meeting.
 - Follow up with Reggie Griggs.
 - Visit Ari Moore on March 21 to caption photos/archival materials.
 - Ask Nissa to print out some posters.
 - Distribute posters to Sweets.
 - Distribute posters around the city.
- *Collin:*
 - Visit Ari Moore on March 21 to caption photos/archival materials.
 - Distribute posters around the city.

Documentary Film:

Several members have been at work transcribing completed interviews. Their next chore: highlight parts of the interview that they think are particularly interesting/worthy of conclusion in a trailer, and write down where in the recording they are. That will make cutting them together way easier.