



## Minutes

November 11, 2024

Location: Microsoft Teams; WHS, Murphy Room

([https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_ZWM5OWJiYjYtNjM3Yy00MGNILThlMDctM2ZIOTVhNTBiZjlm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f4e2d11c-fae4-453b-b6c0-2964663779aa%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222a54957d-de46-4aeb-8d3f-b84b8da0a4b9%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZWM5OWJiYjYtNjM3Yy00MGNILThlMDctM2ZIOTVhNTBiZjlm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f4e2d11c-fae4-453b-b6c0-2964663779aa%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222a54957d-de46-4aeb-8d3f-b84b8da0a4b9%22%7d))

10:00 AM

**Virtual Attendees:** Andrea (Tess) Arenas, Menzi Behrnd-Klodt, Clayborn Benson, Anita Doering, Jack Idlas, Todd Larson, Jacob (Jake) Riehl, Jane Schetter, Kenneth (Ken) J. Wirth

**In-Person Attendees:** Abbie Norderhaug, Rick Pifer, Mara Rodewald

### Agenda items

#### 1. Call to order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM.

#### 2. Wisconsin Latinx History Collective (WLHC) Presentation

- a. Tess, The WLHC is a volunteer run organization. The core team includes faculty and academic staff from seven institutions and community members. Most are (or are children of) first-generation immigrants.
  - i. Diversity. To reflect WI's Latinx populations, WLHC works to ensure representation from island and mainland ethnic subgroups and peoples with different abilities and belief systems.
  - ii. Funding. WLHC has a National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant renewable up to ten years, at \$125,000



- yearly to create a digital edition (DE) project which are mini collections to go on a website based on five to six themes such as im/migration to WI.
- iii. DE Project. DEs will be bilingual, at no cost to anyone, and use a “shared authority model” to ensure informed cultural descriptions. Donors help write the descriptions of and select the archives and oral histories included of the DEs. Laborious process. Having history be accessible to everyone is imperative within the collective. “Our history is of no value unless our children know it”.
- iv. Relationships. Enhancing knowledge and appreciation of WHS within the Latinx community and vice-versa such as the WHS Press recently publishing three books centering WI Latinx histories. WLHC also looks forward to making accessible more resources for K-12 future scholars.
- b. Menzi, I appreciate the description of what you are doing.
  - i. Tess, thank you, there has been a movement in the scholarly world to use donors in a way that this is their work also. I also have appreciation of what WHS has been doing and forming a true partnership together.
  - ii. Rick, I am reminded of the community archives movement who are also working to implement a “shared authority model”.

### **3. Review and Approval of July Meeting Minutes**

- a. Rick, #2 b-ii, “Mayor Bohn” is misspelled.
- b. Menzi, add “Menzi Behrnd-Klodt” to attendees. #5 b-i, “Peter Shrake” is misspelled, and “Circus World” should be capitalized. #3 a-iii the phrase “over the last 20 years that they’ve been established” is confusing. Historic Madison Inc (HMI) has been established for longer than 20 years.
  - i. Ken, seconds Menzi’s question about #3 a-iii.
  - ii. Rick, the “20 years” [in #3 a-iii] relates to how HMI raised funds to purchase the McVicar-Stein photograph collection from a commercial photographer. HMI then donated the collection to the WHS. HMI has thus spent 20 years or so indexing that Photograph Service collection.
- c. Abbie, motion to approve the July meeting minutes with the aforementioned corrections. All in favor.



#### **4. Introductions**

- a. Abbie, since we have a relatively new member of the board, Todd Larson, and a new program associate, Mara Rodewald, we will do introductions.

#### **5. 2024-2026 Grant Updates**

- a. Abbie, we are nine months into our current operating grant, and we have accomplished much.
  - i. First, our program assistant, Lucinda Kue, finished her work term in August. We hired Mara Rodewald as the new program associate in September. She started October 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - ii. Second, we posted two scholarship programs. However, we could not do the spring scholarship since we could not expend state funds until grant funds were confirmed. Mid-July we got official grant funding and were able to award three scholarships to the Local History and Historic Preservation Conference. The recipients included: a current Madison Highschool student, a recent high school graduate, and a librarian at Racine Public Library. We had five total applications, an increase from last year. We hope to continue increasing awareness about the scholarship.
  - iii. Third, we submitted our first report to NHPRC. We got feedback quickly, and our report was approved. Dan Stokes retired, and the NHPRC hired a new State Historical Records Advisory Board coordinator, Jacob Lusk.
  - iv. Finally, it is time to start thinking about a new grant. Typically, we apply for grants one year in advance and we are fortunate with the WHRAB's strategic plan that we know to start applying soon.

#### **6. Landscape Survey Update and Survey Review**

- a. Jake, one of our grant cycle goals, is to get information on WI historical records institutions via a landscape survey. After surveys have been sent out and completed, information will be compiled into data on an excel sheet.
  - i. Survey Mailing list. As the existing contact lists are outdated, Mara has been revising and updating them.
    - 1. Mara, on the current mailing list, there are mostly clerks of circuit courts and register of deeds with a few museums and historical



societies. We are focusing on 2-D historic records collecting organizations and not so much those collecting 3-D objects.

- ii. Survey Development. Ongoing for the last two months. Using WHRAB's strategic plan to guide development of two sections:
  1. Institutional Background section. To understand the organization's mission and record-keeping purposes. Questions include staffing, volunteering, funding, collection scope and access information, current and future projects, and connections to organizations.
  2. WHRAB Awareness section. To understand how familiar organizations are with the WHRAB, if at all. Questions include awareness of WHRAB itself, WHRAB's past projects, WHRAB's scholarships, and interest in funding aid.
- b. Ken, make sure to define acronyms. Are we going to request some kind of submission of a database of the collections that these archives have?
  - i. Jacob, listing out what is in their database reaches a level of granularity that could be useful in the future. Not sure if it is realistic to have in the survey right now. Open to disagreement.
  - ii. Menzi, is the terminology of, "the scope" referring to the size of what people have or the focus of what is collected? Should make that clear.
- c. Anita, we could use connections to professional organizations such as museum groups, or library associations, to spread the word about the survey. We did a mentor grant a long time ago and sent a survey to a group of smaller public libraries where they had issues. To avoid that, we could do a test batch to see where hangups are.
- d. Rick, can you give an elevator speech about the survey's purpose?
  - i. Jake, after reviewing the strategic plan, the landscape survey's purpose is threefold: first, get an understanding of what type of historical record collecting institutions exist in the state of Wisconsin; second, further awareness of the WHRAB; and third, build a foundation for the WHRAB's future goal of developing a network between these institutions.



- ii. Rick, urge to go over questions. If you don't know how you would use that information, you shouldn't collect it.
- e. Rick, it is common for when surveys go out, they get low response rates. If you send out a survey, get a 10% response, what would you do? Will there be a second round of mailing or phone calls?
  - i. Jake, a 10% response rate is data in of itself. We would know our forms of contact are imperfect or that people are not interested in partaking. We would do multiple rounds since some organizations are only operational on a seasonal basis and might not be active when the survey is first sent.
  - ii. Abbie, we did include in the budget mailing out surveys to do paper surveys. Table next year at the next Local history conference. We might have to call 50 or more places. Plan to start with email and physical mail.
  - iii. Jake, we also plan to utilize the affiliate list information as well.

## 7. 2025 Calendar Planning

- a. Abbie, when to hold the three 2025 WHRAB meetings.
  - i. The 2025-2026 calendar includes strategic plan deadlines that Mara will use to set up the year. Lucinda Kue had been sending out surveys about meeting dates months in advance. Would it be better to schedule one January survey or does the board prefer multiple surveys?
  - ii. Menzi, no preference about whether to send out one January survey or multiple surveys. Request that after a doodle poll has been received to let us know the date as soon as possible, rather than only being sent a meeting invitation a couple weeks later.
- b. Abbie, after the meeting, Mara will resend out the 2025-2026 calendar and the landscape survey questions. We will get a late winter meeting scheduled. Clayborn Benson, would you be able to talk on behalf of the MKE Hip Hop/WI Black Historical Society as a GAA recipient in January or February?
  - i. Clayborn, yes, we would be able to present something.

## 8. Close

- a. Abbie, motion to adjourn.
- b. Rick, seconds. All in favor. The meeting ended at 11:02 AM.