

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Wisconsin Women's Council – March 3, 2021
Patty Cadorin, Chair**

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present: Patty Cadorin (Chair), Dr. Jolene Bowman, Denise Gaumer Hutchison, Nerissa Nelson, Senator Ringhand, Carrie Richard, Amanda Roddy. A quorum was present. Also Attending: Christine Lidbury (Executive Director).

1. Welcome by Chair
2. Approval of Minutes of September 2021. Deferred to March as the file was not available to share with Christine working remotely during much of the past quarter.
3. Agency Update: Christine reported that she had been working remotely and taking leave over the past quarter for caregiving for a family member who very recently passed away. All adjustments in work scheduling were coordinated with the Chair, and Christine expressed her appreciation for the support during a difficult time.

Women, Wellness, Traditional Art & Culture

a. Hmong Women

Partnership with the Hmong Institute in Madison.

Mai Zong Vue, who spoke at the September board meeting, is serving as a consultant and assisting in program development and will recruit participants for a proposed Story Quilt Project that will focus on strengths, struggles and resiliency during COVID.

The committee met in November and confirmed interest in the story quilt project. Christine will work with Mai Zong Vue on the details and scheduling and report back. Fiber art is traditional in the Hmong culture, Depending on the number of participants, the goal would be one or more quilts or fabric panels that could be displayed in the Capitol or at a related program.

The committee also discussed a possible mental health focused luncheon program, with a self-care topic presenter on a culturally appropriate mental health/wellness topic, followed by yoga, at the Executive Residence with the Hmong Institute Women's Group. We had talked about this

idea in 2000 but COVID disrupted those plans. Revisit in 2022 as the situation changes with COVID closures and group limits.

Suggested that if we can work with different communities, including Latinx and Native American and it could be a traveling exhibit and go around the state.

Expend this program, to do something on UW college campuses. It was mentioned that younger women on college campuses are struggling and dealing with mental health issues as a result of the pressures of the pandemic and closures/changes in classes. Perhaps we should see what is happening on college campuses with mental health.

Explore COVID funding to host webinars.

b. Native American Women subcommittee plans to meet in January, due to scheduling complications at this time.

2. Untold Stories of Wisconsin Women

Based on the "Wo Knew" focused on Untold Histories project by the La Cross School District.

- 2 posters per month in 2019, expected to continue but waylaid by COVID school shutdown, and hope to continue in future.
- Men and women in a range of different backgrounds and occupations
- Both historical and current
- Went to stakeholder groups to identify persons
- Poster format appealing to students
- Sponsors for to cover costs of printing, laminating and distribution
- Media partnership with local newspaper

Committee recommendation:

- How: Nominations from WWC Board Members (1st phase). Christine will prepare and distribute a form for members to compile the information on their nominee.
- Who: Current Women in the Community (not Historical), with a focus on diversity.
- Target Audiences: MS & HS Students, Classrooms, Libraries, general public education
- Output: There are currently 13 women on the Women's Council so would look for 12 to 13 small (11x17) color posters with a goal of releasing as a group for Women's History Month in March. Pair with Web Page on WWC website.
- Explore opportunity to have media attention, including social media. Press release event at the Capitol and display the posters.
- Explore printing and distribution issues and possible sponsors.

- Suggested we ask the First Lady to nominate

Board Comments

- Share with colleges and universities.
- Women who have influence in our communities and the lives of women around state.
- Should reconsider that all stories need to focus on living women.
- Talk about women who are trailblazers, for examples Shirley Abrahamson and Vel Phillips
- If only current women (versus historical), use the website for women with untold stories or what trailblazers these women were in the past.
- Perhaps put additional resources on the poster (maybe the back).
- Need to think about social media, such as Instagram, Perhaps use intern.
- Need more guidance on nominating parameters.
 - Diversity broadly (geographic, race/ethnicity, rural/urban, veteran, etc.)
 - Women doing good in their community
 - Trailblazers for other women
 - Non-traditional for women
 - Overcoming adversity

Christine called the Boards attention to the Wisconsin Women Marking History site. There is a process to nominate additional women to the site, If we identify women not included on this site, we can send a formal nomination to the organizers, which is the UW Women's History Librarian, where we have an ongoing relationship.

Motion to go forward with Untold Stories of WW for debut in March 2022, Denise Gaumer Hutchison. Seconded by Patty Cadorin. **Passed unanimously.**

2021 Updated Fact Sheets on Women in State and Local Elected Office. We partnered for release with the Alverno College Center for Women and Girls and UW Extension Local Government Center.

- Published in Factsheet form by level of government, instead of single report. . More flexible to use for different organizations and keeps discussion shorter.
- UW Extension is updating the data on Town Boards.
- League of Wisconsin Municipalities plan to publish the city and villages fact sheets.
- All levels of government showing increases in women elected officeholders, largest since we started reporting in 2005. There appeared to be a big influx of women being elected to city cities, villages, and counties in 2019 and 2021. Unclear if this is an artifact or a trend.
- See charts and factsheets in Board PowerPoint presentation. Factsheets are available on the council's website under Initiatives: Elected Office and under Publications.

It was suggested that maybe one of the female Wisconsin Sheriff's would be good for the Untold Stories project.

Public Comments: None

Next Meeting: March 2, 2022. Closer to the date it will be determined whether the meeting will be a hybrid of virtual and in-person, or just virtual.

Motion to Adjourn by Patty Cadorin. Seconded Denise Gaumer Hutchison. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Lidbury
Executive Director