WIKI SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting

July 18, 2022 at 8:00 p.m.
Conference Call

Board Members Present: Peter Meyer [President]
                             Diane Shaw [Secretary]
                             John Sadowski [Vice President]
                             Sara Snyder [Treasurer]
                             Robert Fernandez
                             Kevin Payravi
                             Gerald Shields

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 p.m.

1. The Board reviewed the minutes for the Board of Directors meeting held on May 16, 2022. A motion by Mr. Sadowski to approve the May 16, 2022 minutes was seconded by Mr. Fernandez and passed without dissent.

2. Mr. Meyer presented the Executive Committee report. He summarized recent activities since the last Board meeting on May 16. Wikimedia DC ran or supported 4 collaborative editing events, and made a new first presentation of our ARTT work with Hacks/Hackers and WikiCred:
    Wikimedia DC events:
    ○ May 19: WikiAPA Edit-a-thon: We Are Here
    ○ June 9: Fifty Women Sculptors: A Wikipedia Edit-a-thon
    Wikimedia DC presented the ARTT tool at the Wikimedia Hackathon 2022: DC Meetup (May 20-22, 2022)
    ○ June 14: Art Library Deco Juneteenth Edit-a-thon
    ○ June 22: Winterthur (Delaware) Edit-a-thon
    There were also Smithsonian Women's History Initiative events organized by Ms. Doyle with WMDC support.

    Upcoming events which will be held in person, organized by Wikimedia DC's Institutional Partnerships Manager Ariel Cetrone::
    ○ August 14: Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon: Women in Virginia History
      https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/9196851
    ○ August 15: (Re)writing History: Wikipedia-edit-a-thon presented by The Peale in Baltimore, Maryland with support from Wikimedia DC

> https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rewriting-history-wikipedia-edit-a-thon-tickets-3804 19965357
>   - ○ September 23 and 24: Wikimedia DC will be assisting the National Gallery of Art with a two-day edit-a-thon. The first day will be a virtual staff session and the second day will be a public, in-person session. Both days will be themed around the *Called to Create* exhibition.

The Board discussed the logistics of conducting in-person editing events, both in terms of COVID-19 safety and the possible need to fund food and drinks for attendees. It might be possible to apply for and receive rapid grants from the Wikimedia Foundation for food and drink funding, but such grants must show some explicit alignment to Movement Strategy. Mr. Meyer mentioned that the Board has contacts at the Foundation who can advise on this. If the tax situation remains unresolved, it might be possible for the institutional partners holding the events to apply for rapid grants instead.

2022 Wikimedia Summit conference in Berlin, September 9-11: Wikimedia DC will provide up to three online participants. The Board is recommending that Ariel Cetrone and Omar from Wikimedia Mexico attend; the other participant is yet to be selected.

Finances: Wikimedia DC currently has $26,100 in the bank and between $1000-2000 in other accounts. Included in this amount are restricted funds (about $25,000) which the chapter administers for or with the Wiki Art Depiction Explorer project, WikiConference North America, WikiWomen's User Group, and Women in Red.

Wikimedia DC has an ongoing contract funded by Hacks/Hackers, with support from the National Science Foundation, to run ARTT, an anti-misinformation project. This activity is designed to collect information on the ways in which a computer system can evaluate the reliability and quality of Wikipedia articles on vaccine topics. The NSF must renew this grant, or it will end soon.

Wikimedia DC also has a new contract to do work (program services) for WikiCred. Financial details were shared with the Board separately. This new grant is focused on Strengthening Knowledge and News Credibility on the Internet (https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:Programs/Wikimedia_Alliances_Fund/Wikicredi bility_Initiative:_Wikimedians_Strengthening_Knowledge_and_News_Credibility_on_th e_Internet). Wikimedia DC will manage the call for applications for WikiCred microgrants.

3. Wikimedia DC tax status update (990s and reinstatement): Mr. Meyer, Mr. Sadowski and Ms. Snyder gave an update on the work they have been doing to prepare the necessary documents.

They have been consulting with Professor Benjamin Leff of American University's Washington College of Law, as well as the IRS's taxpayer advocate service, and the Board of Wikimedia New York City which also had to have its 501(c)(3) status reinstated recently. The past 990 forms and a detailed application for reinstatement have to be submitted.

The next Wikimedia Foundation General Support Grant application for a one year period is due in September. In the future, it should be possible to file a multi-year grant request, although that will require submitting an updated strategic plan. If the Board cannot file the one-year grant application in September, the next opportunity will be in March 2023.

4. Wikimania 2022 is being held globally in August, with virtual sessions as well as some in-person regional meetings. Mr. Meyer and Mr. Payravi are planning to attend an in-person program in Pittsburgh with Ohio Wikimedians from August 12-14.

5. WikiConference North America 2022: Mr. Meyer noted that Wikimedia DC cannot be a fiscal sponsor for the conference this year because of the delay in reinstating the Chapter's non-profit tax status. However, the Chapter will partner with OpenStreetMap USA (and possibly WikiCred) to hold a joint conference on November 11-12. OSM has some funding and will seek sponsorships. Two professional OSM staffers will help organize the conference. There will be a joint program committee.
    ● WikiCred (Ahmed) can help with their subscription to the Pheedloop platform, and probably can provide some funding.
    ● Wikimedia DC has applied for WMF grant funding for live audio interpretation, like last year, with Wikimedia New York City as fiscal sponsor. The Foundation has not accepted or rejected the grant application yet.

In order to make the conference a success, more organizing help will be needed, for example from big Telegram groups of past organizers and attendees.It is hoped that there can be bi-lingual support for the conference's programs, as in past years.

6. Public policy Committee report (Mr. Meyer)
    Mr. Meyer attended a joint meeting of the group Library Futures and the Internet Archive on the afternoon of June 23, 2022 at Georgetown Law School, where policy topics including digital lending and paywalled information were discussed. The meeting focused on ways to set an "affirmative" government policy agenda for libraries to advocate for the public domain. Mr. Meyer said he would share details about the meeting by email with the Public Policy Committee. A followup meeting is to be held online Thursday July 21 from 12-2pm eastern time; Board members were encouraged to attend.

7. Kate Ruane, the Lead Public Policy Specialist for the Wikimedia Foundation expressed interest in having regular meetings with Wikimedia DC Board members, perhaps on Friday mornings. The next opportunity to meet with her is on Friday July 22nd at 9:30 a.m.

8. Mr. Meyer invited the attendees to find potential candidates for Board Committees.

9. Mr. Meyer proposed that future Wikimedia DC elections should be held online, and that the Board should look into ways to make that possible. The Governance Committee will be asked to evaluate whether we can run our Board elections in an online-only format, without mailing out physical ballots. One issue is whether DC law will permit this, but he has heard of other organizations that are doing it. Mr. Shields said he has been looking into the rules about internet voting in DC and is conferring with a non-profit attorney for advice on the topic. It would require a Bylaws change first, which would have to be voted on by members through U.S. postal service mailed ballots. So, online voting would not be possible for the 2022 election this Fall, but a question about changing the Bylaws to allow it in the future could be added to that ballot. Mr. Sadowski and Mr. Shields plan to review the Bylaws.

10. General discussion.
   ● Mr. Shields said that the potential DC sales tax exemption is on hold until the Chapter's IRS non-profit status has been restored.
   ● The next Board of Directors election: candidate statements should be solicited and received in October, with the election held in November or December. It would be a good idea to invite candidates to apply at the upcoming WikiConference North America.
   ● The Board discussed whether to develop a policy on mask-wearing at in-person events while COVID-19 is still causing infections. It seems best to take the lead from the institutions holding the event, since most of them will already have mask-wearing policies. The Wikimedia DC Institutional Partnerships Manager should consult with the host institutions on their policy and advertise that on eventbrite invitations and webpages for future in-person events.
   ● Mr. Fernandez said that he has joined the Board of the Prince George's County Public Library, and he gave a brief explanation of his responsibilities in that role.
   ● Mr. Meyer gave an update on the process of electing new Wikimedia Board of Trustees members, and said that he had submitted a ranking of the 12 most highly qualified candidates (including ones who have been supportive of Wikimedia DC). The Wikimedia community at large will eventually be able to vote on two of the candidates.
   ● The next board meeting will probably be scheduled in September, and will include the task of forming the Election Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.