

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

May 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.  
Conference Call

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. The Board reviewed the minutes for the Board of Directors meeting held on February 7, 2022. A motion by Mr. Meyer to approve the February 7, 2022 minutes was seconded by Mr. Payravi and passed without dissent.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes for the Annual Membership meeting held on February 26, 2022. A motion by Mr. Shields to approve the February 26, 2022 minutes was seconded by Mr. Sadowski and passed without dissent.
3. Mr. Meyer presented the Executive Committee report. [See Attachment A.]
4. Mr. Meyer reviewed the recent past and upcoming activities of the Partnerships Manager, and noted that a hybrid local and global MediaWiki hackathon will be held from May 20-22, 2022. Kevin Payravi has planned the local event and won a grant from the WMF to fund it.
5. Mr. Meyer also provided an overview of WMDC finances, which currently includes mostly restricted funds for specific projects. The Knight Foundation grant for Andrew Lih's project, which was completed under budget, has some leftover funds. Mr. Meyer or Ms. Snyder will contact Mr. Lih and/or the Knight Foundation to ask whether the leftover funds should be returned, or if it would be acceptable to roll the money over for another purpose.
6. Mr. Meyer reported that the Public Policy Committee is looking into the SMART Copyright Act of 2022, introduced into the Senate (S.1653). The bill as currently drafted may negatively affect what information can be shared online. The WMF public policy staff has taken a public position against the bill in a blog post.

7. Board appointments: The Board discussed the membership of the Public Policy Committee. Mr. Meyer moved that Ms. Flood be appointed to the Committee. Mr. Sadowski seconded the motion, which passed without dissent.
8. Mr. Meyer gave an update on the ongoing process to renew WMDC's 501(c)(3) status. Mr. Sadowski has already submitted Form 911 to the Internal Revenue Service, requesting that the agency expedite the processing of the Board's application to renew its 501(c)(3) status to avoid any financial hardship that might arise from being unable to compete for grants. Ms. Snyder is drafting 990 forms for the past 5 years of WMDC's financial records to submit to the IRS to complete the application, and she will share them with the Board to review. Until the 501(c)(3) status is renewed, donations by individuals to WMDC are not sure to be tax-deductible, and foundations will generally be unwilling to give grants to the chapter. In the meantime, WMDC can still enter into contracts for various projects of other not-for-profit organizations.
9. Mr. Meyer said that WMDC is receiving monthly contract payments from Hacks/Hackers for the Partnerships Manager's work on the ARTT project, and other contracts are in the pipeline for WikiCred or similar projects. There may also be an opportunity for WMDC to get a contract to help out with the organization of an upcoming Wikimedia/LGBTQ conference.
10. Mr. Meyer told the Board that he has been reviewing the various platforms and systems that WMDC has been using, for activities such as banking, payroll, and other administrative functions, as well as the domain names that are being held in reserve. Some of these require fees to maintain and might no longer be needed. Mr. Sadowski suggested that the domain names be offered to other U.S. Wikimedian groups, who might be interested in taking them over.
11. Mr. Meyer noted that the opportunity to apply for a Wikimedia Foundation grant for the next WikiConference North America had passed, although the Foundation is offering another round of funding with a June deadline. He will be talking with the teams at OpenStreetMap and Wikimedia New York City to see if they are interested in partnering with WMDC on an application for a grant. Plans for the next WCNA are in a very early stage, and it may be held as a combination of simultaneous virtual and in-person events in the U.S.A., Canada and Mexico.
12. Mr. Meyer gave an update on the activities of WMDC's Partnerships Manager, Ariel Cetrone. With her added duties from the Hacks/Hackers grant, he thinks it makes sense to reduce the number of events she holds in person. Even virtual or hybrid events take a lot of preparation, and often the turn-out of participants is disappointingly low. If the organizations who are partnering with WMDC on events take on more of the preparation work, that would help. Ms. Doyle offered to speak with Mr. Lih to get ideas on ways that future events can be redesigned to require less preparation and offer work that participants can still enjoy and find easier to complete than writing articles, such as focusing on micro-tasks.

13. [Mr. Sadowski left the meeting at 7:52 p.m.]
14. Mr. Fernandez gave an update on the chapter's annual contest, commemorating its founding in May 2011, to write new articles for notable women from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia region, currently ongoing through the month of May. So far, this year's entries are fewer than last year's. Articles are still being created and submitted. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:100\\_DC\\_Women](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:100_DC_Women))
15. Mr. Payravi brought up the subject of the Wikimedia Analysis Committee ([https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia\\_Foundation\\_elections/2022#Analysis\\_Committee](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation_elections/2022#Analysis_Committee)), to choose regional representatives to serve on an international committee to select candidates to run for the Affiliates' election to the WMF Board of Trustees. Mr. Shields expressed interest in serving on the Analysis Committee. Mr. Meyer moved to appoint Mr. Shields in that role, which was seconded by Ms. Shaw and unanimously approved. In addition, WMDC is able to nominate an Affiliate Representative for the Analysis Committee; Mr. Meyer volunteered for that role by nominating himself. The Board unanimously approved Mr. Meyer as the Affiliate Representative for WMDC.
16. The board heard a presentation by guest Cindy Cicalese, a principal engineer for the WMF focused on MediaWiki development. She provided an overview of the organizational structure of the Foundation, the Product and Technology groups in particular, as well as a discussion of the various products created or in development to support Wikimedia projects. She noted that there is emphasis on mapping between the 2030 WMF Strategy and the technological features and products that need to be developed to support it. There has been a lot of hiring for various positions in the recent past at the Foundation, and now it's in a consolidation period focused on meeting the strategic needs of the movement. Some of the activities include making improvements to structured data on WM Commons, looking at ways to redevelop or replace Blazegraph, and implementing IP masking to protect privacy. She will be participating in the upcoming Hackathon, working on extensions and pluggable authentication.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

## Attachment A

Events: Since our last board meeting we have had events with Mastercard, the House of Sweden and other partners in the annual WikiGap editathon, the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, the University of Nebraska, the African Women Artists editathon, the American Statistical Association, and the African American Artists of Texas editathon. We held our Annual Membership meeting in this period too.

Upcoming events: WikiAPA editathon this Thursday afternoon, and the global Hackathon with local events Friday-Sunday

Finances: We have \$36,400 in the bank and a small amount in other accounts. About \$25,000 of this is restricted funds which the chapter administers for or with the Wiki Art Depiction Explorer project, WikiConference North America, WikiWomen's User Group, and Women in Red.