

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

May 3, 2014

Wikimedia District of Columbia, 1730 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC

Board Members Present: James Hare [President]
 Kristin Anderson [Vice President]
 Kirill Lokshin [Secretary]
 Peter Meyer [Treasurer]
 Nicholas Bashour
 Emily Temple-Wood

Board Members Not Present: John Gallagher

Guests: Jim Hayes
 Dominic McDevitt-Parks [Cultural Partnerships Coordinator]
 Ann Vroom

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Hare at 3:06 PM.

** Mr. Lokshin took the chair **

1. A motion by Mr. Hare to approve the Minutes of the March 29 meeting of the Board of Directors in the form previously distributed was seconded and passed without dissent.
2. Mr. Hare submitted a written report, which was entered into the Minutes:

This past month was one of Wikimedia DC's most active months on records, and it looks like May will also be a very busy month. Some highlights:

- March 30 was the Women in the Arts edit-a-thon, held in the main atrium of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. The event was covered the day before by NPR's Scott Simon and during the event by the BBC's Lynsea Garrison. The role of women in Wikipedia is a topic of interest to the press and we should continue efforts to highlight these issues and hopefully make Wikipedia a more inclusive project.
- April 1 was an edit-a-thon at the National Museum of the American Indian, held with Andrew Lih's class. We had a delightful presentation by the museum staff.
- April 5–6 was the Open Government WikiHack, the first project of the newly created Tech Programs Committee. More in my committee chair report.
- April 11 was our first (and long-awaited) Library of Congress edit-a-thon. Kristin

covered that event in depth in her report. I will be working with the Library to plan additional events with them.

- April 12 was the Wiki Loves Capital Hill training, included in the Public Policy Committee's report.
- April 29 was the Freer and Sackler Galleries edit-a-thon, our first such event with them.

We also have a lot of events coming up, including the Wikipedia APA event with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center on May 10, a social meetup on May 17, and a Federal Register edit-a-thon with the National Archives on May 23. We also already have some events planned for late June, including "Wikipedia In Your Library" with the GWU Library and the Phillips Collection edit-a-thon.

I attended the "404 Day" panel at the Longworth Building, featuring speakers on Congressional data. At that event I spoke to Daniel Schuman of CREW, who suggested that we join the Congressional Data Coalition and expressed interest in a Wikipedian in Residence position at CREW for the fall. He also recommended a number of organizations and people to get in touch with regarding our public policy initiatives. We were also looped in on a project regarding the digitization of the Statutes-at-Large; we are currently working with them on getting the Statutes-at-Large (going back many years) onto Wikimedia Commons and Wikisource.

I contacted Tariq Khokhar at the World Bank and Stuart Ridgway at the International Trade Administration regarding open data in their respective organizations. I need to follow up with them.

Our grant proposal for the Wikipedia Summer of Monuments campaign was approved, but we have a rare opportunity to ask for more money, since it was perceived that we did not ask for enough to cover the project. I have a proposal for your consideration, involving increasing pay from \$2,500 per month to \$4,500 and augmenting the travel budget to allow for more "in-depth" travel. In the meantime, I am receiving applications for the position and I will look over them in the coming days.

I have also begun work on next year's annual plan, including plans for two six-month fellowships that would run from January to June 2015 and would include funding from both the Wikimedia Foundation and outside groups. The annual plan should reflect the prerogatives of the strategic plan, work on which is ongoing as I still need to survey some key Wikimedia DC participants.

As part of our quarterly report, I have conducted a mid-year assessment of the work we've done so far. We are making good progress on many of our program goals and will even exceed some of them. We are not holding as many social events as we should, even though our other events have a collegial and friendly air to them. We are also behind on

some of our infrastructural goals, including plans to revamp the website, to develop a volunteer workflow, and to staff two of our committees.

I have implemented a new CRM for Wikimedia DC, making use of the Insightly platform. I have been working on integrating years worth of collected data into this centralized platform, and so far we have data on 669 contacts. This tool will help us with event planning and fundraising, but more work remains to be done on organizing the data and making it useful for us.

3. Ms. Anderson submitted a written report, which was entered into the Minutes:

This was a busy month, with two major events, one at the University of Delaware, and one at the Library of Congress.

1. The "Colored Conventions" Editathon held in a beautiful new building on the University of Delaware campus. Jim Hayes suggested carpooling to go take a look at the event, so I went along. Many of the attendees were doctoral students in American culture, or librarians from the university. Mary Mark Ockerbloom presented an editing training session, tailored for the needs of working academics.

The topic was the "Colored Conventions," early meetings of African Americans around the time of the Civil War.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/University_of_Delaware/April_2014_Colored_Conventions

We hope to see more events in Delaware, and we'd like to get more of our DC Wikipedians out to Delaware to meet this well-informed and enthusiastic bunch.

2. April was also our long-awaited editathon at the Library of Congress.

Africa Collection Editathon: An Edit-a-Thon at the Library of Congress
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/DC/Africa_Collection_Editathon

Attendees included both community editors and LC staff. We were welcomed by the Chief of the African and Middle Eastern Division, Dr. Mary Jane Deeb. Then reference librarian Laverne Page spoke about the Africa Collection, and gave us a tour of the elegant Africa and Middle East Reading Room and the stacks.

We had anticipated providing that outstanding "How to edit" presentation by Sara Snyder of the Smithsonian. However, we had a very experienced group, with only one newbie editor in need of training, so Sarah worked with him one on one.

With the help of LC staff language and area specialists, we looked through a selection of posters and pamphlet collections, and brainstormed about how to incorporate these collections into Wikipedia.

The Library graciously permitted the use of a conference room so that we could hold our discussions without disturbing readers.

A staff member identified a large poster in an unknown language for us as being a movie poster about the "George Washington of Somalia." We also discovered a large sticker placed on shipping containers during the boycott of South African goods, and a photo album of Mobutu Sese Seko's cavalry officers with their horses. It is clear that there is much to uncover in the Library of Congress collections, and that the collections include a considerable amount of unprocessed material.

Our planned three-hour session extended for the rest of the afternoon, even though we had only provided coffee and cookies as refreshments. One of our supporters arrived with pizza at the very end, and we agreed we need to have ongoing events focused on improving Africa coverage. An editor from the community with expertise in Congo would like to continue his work with the pamphlet collections, if funding can be found to cover his expenses.

Staff expressed an interest in holding another in-house editing training session for those unable to attend.

Yesterday afternoon we had a followup session. I brought a fellow from Zambia who had been unable to attend the event to the reading room for the afternoon, where he looked through the Zambian pamphlet collection. We discovered that materials in Zambian languages have already been put online by the Lubuto Library Project. Jim Hayes also came, and tried out the library scanner. It is quite usable for those interested in adding open source African materials to WikiSource.

Jim photographed more of the posters that Laverne and I had selected for the original event. We have tentatively identified a few countries that would be good candidates for open source materials in this collection.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to all the Library staff who helped make the Africa Collection editathon happen.

This has been a long-awaited opportunity to share some of the wonderful resources of the Library where I work with my Wikipedia friends. I hope it will be the start of an ongoing collaboration.

4. Mr. Lokshin submitted a written report, which was entered into the Minutes:

Wikimedia DC membership remains stable at 70 members, which includes new and renewing memberships through the month of April, as well as non-renewing members in March and April. Of the 70 memberships, 36 have signed up for automatically recurring renewals; this number may be impacted if we transition away from using PayPal as our membership payment processor.

A total of 4 memberships are due to expire at the end of May; this includes 2 automatically renewing members, as well as 2 additional members who have been individually solicited to renew.

We have completed our internal review of the new draft Form 1023. I plan to incorporate the remaining changes requested by the reviewers and to submit the package to the IRS within the next few days.

James and I have negotiated a fiscal sponsorship agreement with the New England Wikimedians user group; a copy of the agreement is attached. We are currently awaiting receipt of the signed agreement. I anticipate that the proposed fiscal sponsorship agreement with the GLAM-Wiki US Consortium will be substantially identical to this agreement.

[document attached]

5. Mr. Meyer submitted a written report, which was entered into the Minutes:

The WMF is in the process of saying yes to our big Wikipedia Summer of Monuments 2014 grant request which will notably fund a project manager. James Hare is finalizing details with them.

I approve Kirill's draft of the Form 1023 submission to the IRS, with thanks, and minor comments and questions to him.

We've had two large expenses since our last meeting, for refreshments at the Women in the Arts editathon, and for the Open Government Hackathon, totalling over \$1100.

Other events on our calendar had outside funding or no funding. In this month we also paid rent at two offices, as we transition from OSI to Cove. OSI charged extra for our last month there, which looked fine to me, assuming our business there is closed out now. Event spending is much larger than rent.

The WikiConference USA finance issues are not yet in my bailiwick but it is coming up soon. Discussions are underway about our chapter maintaining accounts for Wikimedians in New England and the GLAM Consortium. These look to be constructive steps, and not very burdensome. We may support a New England photo

expedition by paying in advance to the organizer, which would be a new procedure financially speaking, but is fine with me as long as board members support it.

As of today's board meeting, Wikimedia DC has \$13170 in liquid assets plus small amounts in equipment assets and prepaid expenses.

6. Mr. Meyer submitted a written report on behalf of the Public Policy Committee, which was entered into the Minutes:

Members of the public policy meeting had a training meeting for congressional briefings. Jim Hayes was in charge and I thank him. We prepared for briefings with three congressional staff members on May 5. Expenses including donations for this are minimal; we follow this principle to maintain the chapter's tax-charity status.

We have drafted the comments to the copyright office on orphan works. I thank John Sadowski for mastering the issues and writing and editing. We requested comments from some Wikimedians and have more to follow up with. Our comments must be submitted by May 14; let's finalize around the 10th. This will be the first official statement or publication by the chapter drafted by our committee and I am proud of it.

We attended part of the Supreme Court case on software patents, the Alice vs. CLS Bank case on March 31. We were in line at 6am and even so were not early enough in line to see the whole thing. It seems that patent attorneys really wanted to see it --- their matters do not usually go to the Supreme Court. I had thought there would be programmers in line but did not find any.

A full transcript of the oral arguments has been published. Some notes on our experience are on the event page about it. We can return to the Court in the future, if and when it seems worthwhile.

Members of the public policy committee have submitted presentations on congressional briefings and on patents for consideration for the upcoming WikiConference USA and Wikimania 2014 and plan one for WikiSym. These would not be official statements of the chapter.

7. Mr. Hare submitted a written report on behalf of the Technology Programs Committee, which was entered into the Minutes:

Wikimedia DC held its first hackathon, the Open Government WikiHack, this past April. It was very successful, with around 30 people in attendance, around 55 signed up in total (we can reach out to those who didn't come), and numerous projects started. I would like to thank the Sunlight Foundation for hosting and providing valuable support to the event, to Katie Filbert for delivering the keynote lecture, and Maite Fernandez and Aamir Khwaja for helping with planning the event.

I am working with the Wikimedia Foundation on preparing a survey to circulate to the registered attendees. I plan on starting a mailing list to engage the registered attendees and to continuously follow up with them on their projects. A follow-up event is already in the works, to be held at the National Archives.

I also asked Aamir about visualizing map data; I wanted to see if it would be possible to combine airport data with maps prepared by WikiProject NRHP to help the Wikipedia Summer of Monuments project manager plan travel. Aamir provided me some information and I will investigate further. Thank you Aamir!

8. The Corporation's draft Fundraising Plan for Fiscal Year 2013–14 was discussed, and consideration of the plan was postponed until the next meeting of the Board.
9. A proposed resolution regarding the hiring of a Project Manager for the Wikipedia Summer of Monuments campaign was discussed. A motion by Mr. Lokshin to adopt the resolution as written was seconded and passed without dissent, and the resolution was entered into the Minutes:

Resolution No. 4.B6.7 regarding the Project Manager for Wikipedia Summer of Monuments is amended by striking "\$2,500" in Paragraph 3 and inserting "\$4,500" in its place.

10. A proposal for the Corporation to join the Congressional Data Coalition was discussed and referred to the Public Policy Committee for review.

** Mr. Hare left the meeting at 3:37 PM **

11. A proposal to establish a fellowship program for Fiscal Year 2014–15 was discussed.

** Mr. Hayes joined the meeting at 4:27 PM **

** Ms. Temple-Wood left the meeting at 4:28 PM **

** The meeting entered into executive session at 4:37 PM and returned to open session at 4:49 PM **

12. A motion by Mr. Lokshin to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the Corporation's votes for the affiliate-selected seats on the Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees was seconded and passed without dissent, and the resolution was entered into the Minutes:

The Secretary is instructed to enter a vote ranking Patricio Lorente and Alice Wiegand equivalently as first choices, and ranking Frieda Brioschi and Anders Wennersten equivalently as second choices.

13. The date of the next meeting of the Board of Directors was set to June 8, 2014, at 2:00 PM, at the Corporation's offices at 1730 Connecticut Avenue NW.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 PM.

Approved on _____, _____.

Kirill Lokshin
Secretary

James Hare
President