

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

January 8, 2024 at 8:00 p.m.
Conference Call

Board Members Present: Peter Meyer [President]
Diane Shaw [Secretary]
John Sadowski [Vice President]
Sara Snyder [Treasurer]
Kevin Li
Kevin Payravi
Ariel Cetrone [Programs and Partnerships Manager]

[Mr. Robert Fernandez was excused from attending]

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

1. The Board reviewed the draft minutes for the Board of Directors meetings held on October 3, 2023 and November 28, 2023 and approved them unanimously.
2. New Board member Kevin Li was introduced and welcomed into the group. Mr. Shields, who resigned from the Board, was thanked for his service.
3. Mr. Meyer presented the Executive Committee report. [See Attachment A.]
4. Public Policy Committee report: Mr. Meyer noted that members of the Wikimedia Policy Office would be attending the Supreme Court case early on February 26th to see cases related to Section 230, and WMDC members have been invited to attend.
5. Election Committee report: Mr. Sadowski summarized the results from the December 2023 election of Board officers and the approval of the proposed budget by WMDC members He thanked Mr. Meyer, Mr. Payravi and Ms. Shaw for their work on the logistics of the online election. With the election having been completed, the Election Committee has been temporarily suspended until the next annual election cycle.
6. Ms. Snyder said she was working on the draft for Form 990 for the Internal Revenue Service and would forward it to Mr. Meyer and Mr. Sadowski for review before submitting it. She noted that after the chapter's taxes have been filed, she can proceed with a review by an experienced bookkeeper to help put the financial records in good order.
7. Ms. Cetrone reported that she would be submitting the final report for the ARTT Project to Hacks/Hackers soon. Since the project required a lot of effort and was

time-consuming, she expects that the contract will not be renewed. Grant awards for WikiCred, another Hacks/Hackers project she was involved with, are being processed. The project is on hold but there is hope that the Wikimedia Foundation might be able to provide funding to continue supporting WMDC's involvement. Ms. Cetrone said there was a chance that WMDC will have a contract to work with the Smithsonian's American Women's History Museum to hold three or four editathons and training sessions, continuing the work which had been successfully conducted by past Board member Kelly Doyle. WMDC will need to renew its status in the Smithsonian's vendor database.

8. Ms. Cetrone outlined recent and upcoming events and activities, including an editathon on women's biography at the Arlington Aurora Hills Library on January 13th, and events on Black History Month and on autism for library staff at Tennessee State University and the University of Southern Florida. She would also be conducting a Wiki-themed presentation on Art & Feminism at the National Gallery of Art on March 2nd. Mr. Meyer added that the Wikimedia New York City chapter will be holding its Wikipedia Day on January 14th and that he plans to attend.
9. Mr. Meyer noted that the draft report for the 2023 WikiConference North America is in process. The 2024 WCNA may be held in Indianapolis. Wikimedia DC expects to be the fiscal sponsor and will help file the grant. Mr. Li is on the Wikimedia Foundation Conference Grant Committee and may advise on that.
10. Mr. Meyer reminded the Board that WMDC will become a member of the OpenGov Hub, located near Metro Center at 1100 13th St. NW. The chapter will be able to hold events there such as happy hours, editathons, and salons, etc.
11. Mr. Payravi reported on the latest Wiki Loves Monuments competition. There were not as many contributions as in the past, but still there were good ones, and the winning entries are being shared. Another competition, Wiki Loves Earth, will be starting but it is not being run in the United States.
12. Mr. Sadowski reported on the Wiki Science Competition. All of the entries (photos) have been submitted and judging will begin soon.
13. Mr. Meyer, Ms. Snyder and Ms. Cetrone are preparing the chapter's annual report for the Wikimedia Foundation, which is due soon.
14. Funding has been secured for the Board to hire a facilitator to help with strategic planning for the chapter before the end of the 2024 calendar year.
15. Mr. Meyer and Ms. Cetrone are working on the proposal for a North American hub. They have been holding conversations, focus groups, and conducting interviews with the global community to gather advice and suggestions for best practices, etc. It may be possible for the Wikiconference North America User Group to serve as an umbrella for more activities than just an annual conference, and it could offer microgrants for section activities. The report proposing the hub will be finished in February, and there are plans to apply for one or more Wikimedia Foundation grants to organize and support the work of the hub.

16. Mr. Meyer will email each of the Board members to ask for their ranking of preferred candidates for the two appointed positions on the Board. Five candidates have been identified; the slate is currently to be kept confidential.
17. Mr. Meyer moved to re-appoint Mr. Sadowski to the Board, which was unanimously approved. Mr. Sadowski then moved to re-appoint the Officers (Mr. Meyer as President; Mr. Sadowski as Vice President; Ms. Snyder as Treasurer; and Ms. Shaw as Secretary). There were no other candidates seeking a position as an Officer. The re-appointments were unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.