

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

March 29, 2014

Wikimedia District of Columbia, 1629 K Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC

Board Members Present:           James Hare [President]  
  Kristin Anderson [Vice President]  
  Kirill Lokshin [Secretary]  
  Peter Meyer [Treasurer]  
  John Gallagher

Board Members Not Present:       Nicholas Bashour  
  Emily Temple-Wood

Guests:                             John Sadowski

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Hare at 2:15 PM.

1. A motion by Mr. Hare to approve the Minutes of the March 8 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:

On March 10, I represented Wikimedia DC on a panel on orphan works legislation at the U.S. Copyright Office. We represented a distinct position, that of a volunteer-led community interested in using orphan works to benefit the public good. I look forward to our participation in their comment process.

I was recently interviewed by FedScoop and Federal News Radio about Wikimedia DC. An article was published in FedScoop about Wikimedia DC's work with the Smithsonian Institution and Cato Institute. I wrote a guest blog post for the Sunlight Foundation about the upcoming Open Government WikiHack which is also posted on our blog.

I met with Chris Taggart of OpenCorporates, a website that makes data about corporations available for the public under an open license. There is possibly an opportunity of incorporating their data into Wikidata. I also attended the Social Gov Summit, hosted by the U.S. General Services Administration. GSA coordinates many of the technology initiatives within the federal government and I am interested in learning what the U.S. government can do to contribute to Wikimedia projects.

We have many upcoming events in April.

3. Ms. Anderson reported that she was engaged in planning for the April 11 edit-a-thon at the Library of Congress. She further reported that she had reviewed the discussion regarding the Belfer Center Wikipedian-in-Residence program, and recommended that the Corporation take no official position with regard to the matter.

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

Wikimedia DC currently has 71 members in good standing. This represents a net increase of 5 members since the last meeting of the Board.

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

We have no large recent expenditures.

The May-June WikiConference USA involves arranging and paying for travel. That will be a busy time treasury-wise.

We closed out the 2013 Outreach Grant we had received from the WMF in good form. They accepted our report and expense information. Our contact was Alexandra Wang.

James filed a grant request to the WMF for a project manager for Wiki Loves Monuments.

As of March 29, 2014, Wikimedia DC has \$14,703.80 in liquid net assets plus \$1539.11 in equipment and a small amount of prepaid expenses.

6. Speaking on behalf of the Fundraising Committee, Mr. Gallagher reported that the committee had prepared a draft Fundraising Plan for Fiscal Year 2013–14 for the Board's review.
7. Mr. Meyer submitted a written report on behalf of the Public Policy Committee, which was entered into the Minutes:

Three topics: (1) our draft statement on Orphan Works -- please review! ; (2) congressional briefings ; (3) software patents.

(1) Comments on Orphan Works -- The US Copyright Office invited our presence on a panel and written comments on the subject of "orphan works". These are works whose copyright-holder (usually the creator) cannot be identified or cannot be located, and therefore permission cannot be obtained to use the work, and it is therefore lost to

Wikimedia Commons and many other uses. James Hare represented our chapter at the Copyright Office panel. The public policy committee has worked out about five pages of written comments, with contributions by all committee members and edited principally by John Sadowski. We seem to have a consensus on the content. (There are knotty details for the Copyright Office and legislators, but the interest of Wikimedians is fairly direct. Our examples may be useful to them.)

John has organized the text according to the issues the Copyright Office wanted us to address. The draft is here: [http://wikimediadc.org/wiki/Internal:Public\\_Policy\\_Committee\\_workspace/Orphan\\_works](http://wikimediadc.org/wiki/Internal:Public_Policy_Committee_workspace/Orphan_works).

We invite you to edit or comment. We would like board support or approval for this draft, and we will continue to make small changes. Comments must be in to the Copyright Office by April 14. We know of many Wikimedians and other experts to consult for verification, examples, and polish. For managing this, my preference is that John Sadowski continues to have editorial control and that the submission meets his standards. If we charge ahead on the current plan, this will be the first publication of our new Public Policy committee. It may be a good subject for a chapter blog post.

(2) Congressional briefings -- Following last year's model, Jim Hayes will train us to meet with congressional staff to discuss public policy issues of interest to Wikimedians, such as copyright. Training's on Sat April 12. Details are on the chapter's wiki calendar. He will schedule meetings with staffers soon afterward. We ask members to help us identify congressional staff who might be helpful to meet with. They do not need to be bigshots. We are developing our capacity, here, and we are not taking firm positions on specific legislation. It may be helpful if the board can budget a bit for stationery, photocopies, and refreshments. It is possible that Jim and others will submit presentation about this effort at the WikiConference USA, and it is a fun subject for a blog post.

(3) Software patents -- The Supreme Court considers the Alice vs. CLS Bank software patents case on Monday March 31 at 10am. A couple of us will attend the arguments, and more are welcome. Logistical details will be on-wiki, linked from the calendar. We would make a larger event of this, but it requires getting up extremely early in the morning to wait in line, and missing half a work day, so interest has been subdued.

Relatedly, coauthors and I plan to submit a presentation proposal for Wikimania 2014 offering "An update on software patents", covering this case (which will be decided in the summer, before the conference) and the spectrum points of view on software patents which are a subject of ongoing struggle internationally and affect the free knowledge movement. We have met with a number of experts on the subject. This submission is our work as individuals but the presentation could later be a committee work, so I hereby alert you and I welcome the board's views and guidance. Details will be on-wiki.

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

Registration has opened for the Open Government WikiHack. Thirty-four people have registered so far, representing Wikimedia projects, DC Tech, and several government agencies! There will be a happy hour the day before the WikiHack, at 5 PM at the Sunlight Foundation's offices. I recommend your attendance.

9. A motion by Mr. Meyer to authorize the President to extend the employment of the Project Manager for the Wikipedia Summer of Monuments campaign through October 2014 was seconded and passed without dissent.
10. 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.
11. The draft comment to the United States Copyright Office regarding orphan works was discussed.
12. A proposed resolution regarding approval of the draft comment to the United States Copyright Office regarding orphan works was discussed and amended. A motion by Mr. Meyer to adopt the resolution as amended was seconded and passed without dissent, with Ms. Anderson abstaining, and the resolution was entered into the Minutes:

The President is authorized to approve a final version of the comment to the United States Copyright Office regarding orphan works for submission, provided that the ideas in said final version are consistent with the draft which has been reviewed by the Board.

13. Plans for the Wiki Loves Capitol Hill congressional briefings were discussed.
14. The date of the next meeting of the Board of Directors was set to May 3, 2014, at 2:00 PM, at the Corporation's offices at 1730 Connecticut Avenue NW.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 PM.

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

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Kirill Lokshin  
Secretary

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James Hare  
President