

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

May 29, 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  
Ariel Cetrone [Institutional Partnerships Manager]

[Kevin Payravi was excused from attending]

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

1. The Board reviewed the draft minutes for the Annual Membership Meeting held on December 14, 2023 and the Board of Directors meeting held on January 8, 2024 and approved them unanimously.
2. Mr. Meyer presented the Executive Committee report. [See Attachment A.]
3. Ms. Cetrone gave an overview of the WMDC events held since the last Board meeting, including editathons for the Aurora Hills Public Library in Arlington, VA; the American Meteorological Society conference in Baltimore; a Black History Month event held jointly with Tennessee State University and the University of South Florida; the Georgetown University women's history group; and the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum (SAWHM) with a NASA-focused theme. She also outlined plans for upcoming events, including editathons on women doctors during World War I for SAWHM; for the Capitol Hill Chorale to be held at the MLK jr. branch of the DC Public Library; and for the recently reopened (post-renovation) Museum of Women in the Arts. She might also be holding an editathon for the University of Maryland's Anthropology Department with Diana Marsh on a women's history theme. Ms. Cetrone said WMDC has held 25 events in the past year. She is looking for more to hold in the late summer and fall. About 70% of the events are held online, with about 30% held in person.
4. Public Policy Committee report: Mr. Meyer said he joined WMF Policy staff to wait in line so they could see oral arguments at the Supreme Court cases on February 26th which are related to Section 230.

5. Finance Committee report: Mr. Meyer summarized the current financial situation of WMDC, including the resolution of DC and federal tax payments and the receipt of a WMF grant extended to 18 months, as well as a grant from Hack/Hackers, and a grant from WMF for sponsoring the upcoming WikiConference North America in Indianapolis, which includes a fiscal sponsorship fee for WMDC's efforts. Currently WMDC has over \$100,000 in its bank account. In September, WMDC can apply for another annual (or even multi-annual) grant from WMF. It will be helpful to look for financial support beyond WMF, such as additional grants or contracts with Hacks/Hackers on the continuing ARTT effort against misinformation, and funding offered by SAWHM for its events.
6. Ms. Snyder said she has already filed taxes for the Chapter for this year. She will be looking to hire an accountant experienced in working with non-profit organizations to review the Chapter's financial records for accuracy and to make recommendations for future practice.
7. Mr. Meyer and Ms. Cetrone have completed their final report for developing a North American hub and posted it to Meta-Wiki (see [North American Hub Research Project/Final report - Meta \(wikimedia.org\)](#)). Mr. Meyer and Pharos from Wikimedia New York City have been having discussions debating what a hub might mean across the Wikimedia community. There will possibly be an opportunity to apply for a hub grant from WMF in August.
8. The Wikimedia Movement Summit was held in Berlin in April. Various WMDC members attended, including Mr. Meyer representing WMDC and the North American Hub Project, Mr. Sadowski representing the Ohio Wikimedians group; and Mr. Payravi representing Wikiconference North America.
9. At the Berlin meeting in April, there were lots of conversations about the Wikimedia Movement Charter, with some reference to hubs as well, in an effort to build consensus. The content is still quite controversial. Relatedly, Ms. Cetrone described how she had been invited to join a group of executive directors for the WMF Global Council Board which includes an assembly of representatives from various Wiki groups. The group holds participatory calls every six weeks. WMF CEO Maryana Iskander attended one of the calls discussing the Movement Charter. She said she was still not satisfied with the results of the Berlin Summit and would likely not ratify the Charter as it currently stands. There is still controversy over who would be eligible to serve as members of the proposed global council and how grant-making decisions would be made. Would it be mainly another level of bureaucracy that is not aligned with Wikimedia projects and erect barriers? WMF leadership remains skeptical about the process. Ms. Cetrone said the Global Council is trying to align with the goals of WMF's financial concerns, and while WMF may think the Global Council Assembly is too large, there are so many affiliates across the globe who represent various groups that want a say in the process. Some affiliates have staff and are well-funded, while others (like WMDC) may only have one

staff member and could use more help and funding, Mr. Meyer noted that Wikimedia New York City has recently hired an executive director. To sum up the discussions about the Movement Charter, there may not be a vote on it this summer and many people involved are feeling burned out, with concerns about “function creep” and limitations on power, with some participants suspicious of hierarchies and who don’t want to be dictated to. WMDC is too small an organization to be influential, but as a part of hub it could have a higher profile. Mr. Meyer said he had been told there were likely to be about 70,000 people eligible to vote on the Charter.

10. Mr. Meyer said he has been invited to be part of a leadership group called the Affiliate Chairperson Group, which has mostly a European membership but is trying to become more inclusive.
11. WMDC Strategic Planning: Mr. Meyer noted that Wikimedia New York City has gone through a similar process recently and had hired a consultant to help with discussions, and he would look into possibly hiring the same consultant to help WMDC. Ideally our strategic planning process will be well underway by September. Members of the WMDC Board of Directors discussed whether it would make sense to bring on one or two new Board members to fill vacancies (and possibly expand the Board as well, although that would require a change to the Bylaws) before embarking on a new strategic planning process. Further discussion on the topic will be needed, but a decision to appoint new Board members should be finalized in July, if possible.
12. Mr. Sadowski gave a brief summary of the latest Wiki Science Competition, saying that the judging had been finished but the winners had not yet been informed of the results. One of the winners is a collective group of 6 persons who will get a split award of \$250 for the group, making the total cost of the awards \$2100.00. Mr. Meyer said there might be a chance to give a bit more money this year, perhaps an extra \$100.00.
13. Mr. Meyer said that he received an email about the WMF Board of Trustees selection process. Affiliates are asked to select a person who can vote on behalf of their group to choose a panel of 12 Trustees, and he would take care of this. The shortlisting process takes place between June 3-28.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.