

WMZA Operational Meeting 12 August 2025

Previous Minutes :

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oH3WPErZDSKJC8sunsBG4f8KXeoqEgG0NmxJxK1NrDA/edit?tab=t.0>

==Attendees==

- *Martin Emanuel (ME)
- *Herschel Jackson (HJ)
- *Indiphile Ntliziyombi (IN)
- *Khethiwe Marais (KM)

==Apologies==

===Absent===

===Agenda===

1. Ratify previous meeting minutes (5 mins)
2. Wikimania 2025 post-conference update(HJ) (10 mins)
3. Fiscal Sponsors 2025/2026
 - Wiscom (HJ) (5 mins)
 - Botswana (HJ) (5 mins)
 - Wikilndaba (HJ) (5 mins)
4. Wikimedia_ZA Meetups 16 August 2025 (HJ) (5 mins)
5. Public Libraries Seminar (HJ) (5 mins)
6. Photographic content at Workshops (BS) (5 mins)
7. Cape Flats Arts Festival (HJ) (3 mins)
8. WMZA Project Review update (HJ) (2 mins)
9. Wikimedia South Africa Communication Update (IN) (5 min)
10. Operations Items/General (5 min)

====Meeting Summary====

- The previous meeting minutes were ratified by 2 members. KM requested changing to action minutes over detailed minutes for the purpose of the meeting. HJ suggested waiting for the next operational meeting to see if members support the suggestion. HJ requested for this point to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- HJ gave a brief update on his experience at Wikimania 2025. It was an exceptionally well run conference, with informative sessions. The highlight was the ability to network with fellow wikimedians. KM commented on the importance of having Foundation staff, like communications in attendance. KM suggested that the chapter keeps this in mind for future events, while recognising that attendance usually requires access to a scholarship. HJ remarked that the Chapter was well represented and that he was the only WMZA staff member in attendance. HJ listed local and SADC Chapter members who secured either local or international scholarships. HJ mentioned that there was a plan for communications ahead of Wikimania, where IN reached out to attendees in order to obtain comments and images during the course of the conference.

- HJ gave a brief update on fiscal sponsors in the absence of the fiscal sponsorship managers.
 - The grant for Wiscom is still not completed yet, with no view on when it will be completed. The fiscal sponsorship manager (Bobby Shabangu) contract can only be signed once the grant is completed. Work can only begin thereafter.
 - The funds for user group Botswana have been received via the Foundation and the process for payment of the tranches have been initiated with the South African Reserve Bank.
 - A similar process has been initiated for payment towards WikiIndaba. There were some concerns raised at the Q3 board meeting about tracking payments and invoices, but we hope to rectify this in the next financial meeting.
- HJ confirmed that the WMZA monthly Meetups will take place in Johannesburg and Cape Town, at Goethe Institute and Bootleggers Harrington respectively. The Chapter is still struggling to find a suitable venue for the Cape Town Meetups, which will hopefully be resolved soon. HJ asked if KM would be joining the Johannesburg Meetup as a member of the Citizen Justice Network (WITS) would be joining, which KM might be interested in. KM will check on her availability. KM mentioned that the Chapter is still not using the forum to link up with editing aspects and also asked when the next Edit-a-thon would occur. HJ mentioned that IN will speak about this in the communications update.
- HJ gave a brief update on the Public Libraries Seminar. Not much further has occurred since the last meeting. The date, venue has been confirmed. The booth has been secured. Two members per day will be present at the booth. The board is still to decide on what merchandise to present at the booth. HJ confirms that the Chapter only has pens and pamphlets. Any further merchandise needs to be purchased before the end of the month as the seminar is in the first week of September.
- The photographic content agenda item will be carried over to the next meeting, when BS is present.
- HJ remarked that there has not been any further progress since the last meeting with the Cape Flats Arts Festival (CFAF). They sent an email requesting feedback from WMZA. HJ replied that WMZA is still awaiting their proposal, budget and dates of the festival. CFAF will confirm the dates before getting back to us with the requested information.
- HJ gave a brief update on the projects and events review. The review must be completed before the end of August as communicated to the Chapter members. The board will review the applications on 21/08/2025, with sufficient time to communicate the outcome to Chapter Members.
- IN gave a communications update. IN interviewed attendees pre-Wikimania, however the post-Wikimania interviews may be delayed by a week as many attendees have been unwell. Some but not all members sent images while at Wikimania,, which IN these posted on social media. IN also posted copies of images from other Wikimedia organisations on social media once HJ got approval for their usage. There will be an Edit-a-thon at the Goethe African Feminism Symposium, centring around the central theme. HJ responding to KM,, confirmed that there will be editing in the first hour at the Johannesburg Meetup. IN commented that the script for the short form content script is completed and that HJ and Jan-Hendrik will need to review it and perhaps tweak it within the time constraints. IN suggests some notes may need to be rephrased or removed in order for it to match its purpose. HJ asked IN to share the

script with him and if IN got any feedback from members of the language groups. IN remarked that the script, which was created with HJ's guidance in mind, needs to be tweaked first as it may not be relevant to some members of the language groups. Once the script is ready, communication with language members can begin.

- HJ informed members that WMZA has signed the MOU with the Afrikaans Akademie. Afrikaans Akademie (AA) will attend future meetings as per the MOU, so that information flows both ways. HJ mentioned that the Afrikaans Akademie will have a permanent updates slot in the agenda going forward. KM requested an update on progress with the Afrikaans akademie intern. HJ said that they have agreed to waiting on approval for funding for the position from the Foundation, failing that the intern will work a 50/50 split between WMZA and AA. The meeting with the Foundation will take place on 18/08/2025.
- HJ mentioned that there are six new requests for partnerships. WMZA can not, in good faith, look at these until the Projects and Events review is finalised, as doing so would be unfair to the other members.
- HJ mentioned that he has presented a few possible panelists for the African Feminism Symposium, one being KM.
- HJ mentioned that two members from Sadilar and one member from ReCreate also attended Wikimania. ReCreate present on the ReCreate South Africa Model, HJ will share the Wikimania sessions video link with ME, who will make it available to interested members.
- HJ managed to address two recurring problems on Language Wiki in South Africa during the Hack-a-thon in Nairobi. HJ had a discussion with some administrative staff. Not all words are translated into another language e.g. the read and view history buttons. HJ was shown how to change this and it will be shared with chapter members who speak and edit the different languages. HJ will engage with the language members to isolate a candidate to do this administration in the back-end. HJ confirmed with KM that he will make a template with wording for translation, which will then be shared with experts in the languages before it is posted.
- HJ mentioned that a successful Wikipedia language requires technical editors, administrators and editors in abundance. HJ also mentioned that language champion and administrator roles should be kept separate as it makes Language Wiki more resilient.
- KM enquired about the low WMZA attendance at the meeting. HJ mentioned that most members fell ill after Wikimania, but should be back in attendance at future meetings.

==Detailed Minutes==

- Link to Folder for recording of meeting