

Minutes for Buffalo Niagara Coalition for Open Government March 29, 2018 meeting

Meeting called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Paul Wolf. Present: Ed McKee, Janet Vito, Lawrence Vito, Jim Tricoli, Sonia Dusza, Joe Kissel, Richard Bertrand.

Meeting Minutes: Ed McKee made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2018 meeting, seconded by Jim Tricoli. Minutes unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ed McKee reported BNCOG's balance as \$789.57, after subtracting expenses of \$18.79. Jim Tricoli made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report seconded by Joe Kissel. Treasurer's Report unanimously approved.

We have been contacted by a local business interested in paying to be a corporate sponsor of our organization. Paul passed out some ideas for Bronze, Silver and Gold sponsorships. It was agreed to send these sponsorship possibilities to the business that expressed interest.

Follow-Up to Sunshine Week Reports & Press Conference: Paul Wolf emailed the two reports released regarding local government and Authority websites to the Boards that were rated. The Town of Hamburg and the Wheatfield Local Development Corp. are making changes to their website due to our reports. Paul also sent the reports to the New York State Comptroller's Office and Assemblymember Robin Schimminger as the Chair of the WNY Legislative Delegation. Paul will follow-up and see if we can meet with the State Comptroller and WNY legislators.

The release of the reports was covered by: WBFO Radio, Channel 4 News, Spectrum News Blog, Niagara Gazette, and the Lockport Sun.

Paul, Ed and Rich went to the Erie County Water Authority Board meeting to discuss their rating in our report. Channel 4 News covered this as did the Cheektowaga Bee and the Lancaster Bee.

Non-Profit Incorporation: Thanks to the assistance of Ken Foit, Esq. we are now incorporated as a Not-For-Profit NY corporation. As a new corporation we will have to create a Board of Directors and approve by-laws at the May meeting.

Website/Logo: Ed McKee has lined up a person to help us revamp our website. Paul Wolf passed out three draft logos created by Joe Pietromicca, a Daemen College student who is assisting us. A discussion took place as to feedback to relay back to Joe.

September Speaker: Paul Wolf passed out a list of possible speakers for a September event. It was agreed to contact Susan Lerner, the Executive Director of Common Cause and Brett Orzechowski, a Utica professor who has written a book about New York's FOIL law that is coming out in April. Paul will contact these potential speakers and suggested that we partner again with the League of Women Voters for this event.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm. Next meeting will be May 3, 2018, 5:30 pm at the Williamsville Library.