

## **1-12-23 NYCOALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT MEETING MINUTES**

**PRESENT;** Paul Wolf, Lawrence Vito, Janet Vito, Mary Lou Kling, Axel Ebermann, Maria Tisby, Michelle Allen, Robert Godlewski, Cory Morris, Jane Caitlin Curtin, Ed Schneider, Suzanne Kelly, Maxine Lautenberg, Ann Marie Reeb, Pat Irving, Lynne Bruning, .

Meeting called to Order; 6:04 pm by Paul Wolf.

**MEETING MINUTES** from 12/8/22; Motion to approve made by Janet Vito and seconded by Mary Lou Kling. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT;** Report by Janet Vito, 81 members and \$4,376/15 balance as of end of December. Motion to approve made by Michelle and Seconded by Maria Tisby. Motion carried. Annual dues are up on March-\$20.

**BOARD ELECTIONS;** Motion made by Patricia to expand the board to 13 seats, seconded by Maria and unanimously approved.

Motion made by Pat to appoint Paul Wolf, Steve Lyle, Suzanne Kelly, Alberta Roman, Mary Lou Kling, Axel Ebermann and Amil Virani to a two year term on the board expiring in January 2025.

Motion made by Mary Lou to appoint the following officers for a two year term starting in January 2023 and ending in January 2025:

President – Paul Wolf

Vice President – Michelle Allen

Treasurer – Janet Vito

Secretary – Alberta Roman

Motion seconded by Axel and unanimously approved.

Motion to appoint Michelle as the Chair of the Open Meetings Law Committee made by Marylou and seconded by Axel. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion to appoint Michelle and Axel as the Co-Chairs of the Public Relations Group made by Maria, seconded by Larry and unanimously approved.

**2023 CALENDAR;** Motion made by Michelle to approve the 2023 Calendar, seconded by Axel. Motion unanimously approved.

**Letter to New York City Borough Presidents** – regarding the use of private emails to conduct public business provided for information purposes.

**Letter to State Legislature** – Encouraging them to livestream their meetings, provided for information purposes.

**Coalition Naughty & Nice List** – Received good media coverage across the state. Was a fun thing to do and should plan to do again next year.

**OPEN MEETING LAW COMMITTEE;** Paul Wolf sent a draft report regarding private caucus meetings held by governmental bodies to board members. Will work on scheduling a press conference to release.

Discussed how the State Education Dept. puts together a record retention schedule that local governments follow. We should learn more about how we can advocate for changes to the schedule. Paul pointed out that government officials are only required to keep their calendar schedule of meetings and appointments for the calendar year at which point they can be destroyed. Cory mentioned that when people file a FOIL request they should add language asking for a litigation hold to be placed on the documents being requested to prevent documents from being destroyed.

The Committee passed a motion recommending that the board support amending the New York State Constitution to add a right to public records and open meetings. Michelle made a motion in support of doing this seconded by Maria. Motion unanimously passed.

**FREEDOM of INFORMATION LAW COMMITTEE;** Maria pointed out the meeting minutes were attached to the agenda and that the Committee meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 1:00. Meetings are open to all interested.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDUCATION Group;** Minutes included in agenda packet. Michelle pointed out that they are discussing fundraising for litigation. One possible vehicle to do this is through Crowdjustice.com. The idea of adding a donate button to our website was discussed.

Caitlin stated that she has information on the reporting requirements a 501(c)(3), must follow regarding donations. Caitlin will share information.

**NEW BUSINESS;** Axel mentioned bringing to our local state legislators attention the need to create an enforcement entity as a way to start educating legislators and getting early general commitments of support.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Janet and seconded by Mary Lou. Motion carried. The meeting ended 7:03 pm.

NEXT MEETINGS; Open Meetings Law Committee meeting 1-19-23 @4pm.

Freedom of Information Law meeting on 1-26-23 @1pm.

Public Relations/Education Group meeting on 2-2-23 @3pm.

Coalition Board meeting 2-9-23 @6:30pm.