

3-14-24 NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING

PRESENT ON ZOOM; Michelle Allen, Suzanne Kelly, Ken Guarino, Annmarie Reeb, Darlene Bolsover, Susan, Robert, Jarrett Steffen(first Board Meeting from NF), Maria Tisby, Robyn Gray, Janet Vito, Patricia Irving, Axel Ebermann, Paul Wolf.

NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING; Called to order on zoom at 6:32 pm 3-14-24 by President Paul Wolf.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM LAST MONTH; Motion by Janet Vito to approve minutes from last month Feb.8;second by Axel E.; Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT; Motion made by Annmarie Reeb to approve Treasurer's report; Second by Maria T.;Motion carried. Available funds are \$5,697.81.

CALENDAR 2024; This calendar is for informational purposes.

BUFFALO OPEN MEETING LAWSUIT UPDATE; Motion made by Michelle A. to not Appeal re: City of Buffalo Article 78;Second by Axel E.; Motion carried. Report by Paul that the Article 78 Lawsuit against City of Buffalo was dismissed with Judge stating that the case was not filed within the required 4 months and the Buffalo Board of Review was not a Public Body, contrary to our opinion. Merits of case were not addressed and we may file a new case if the same circumstances arise. To appeal this case would require \$4,000 filing fees and attorney fees additionally. We received a lot of publicity from filing the lawsuit, including 14,000 twitter views on a post about the case which is most we have ever had.

REIMBURSE PAUL FOR FUNDS SPENT OUT OF POCKET; Motion made by Janet V. to approve new amount for reimbursement of court filing Fees; Second by Maria; Motion carried. The amount is \$360.47.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING; Report by Axel E. re Albany lobbying day, where we made an energetic ruckus...with sunshine suit, folders, cookies and balloons. Second day a press conference held with over 30 organizations signed on in support of several bills. Everybody had a good time after a lot of work by many people. We highlighted 6 bills re FOIL package. Paul will email links out from Newspaper publicity and press conference is on YouTube. Facebook (our public) live on Friday at Noon has been going well.

Fundraising work group co-Chair Sue and Annmarie who will step back with invitation to Darlene to take over for her. Jarrett S. states he would step into co-chair at future date.

OPEN MEETING LAW COMMITTEE MEETING; Report by Michelle A. Chair re planning session on how to make public comments at regular meetings and public hearings.

And we just sent out letters to 177 Towns that identified as not allowing public comments. An amended report will reflect new information per Annmarie R. To do a report on 933 towns with a 5% error rate is a tremendous undertaking, per Paul.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW COMMITTEE; Report by Maria T. Chair re final FOIL project of data from FOILing 70 State Agencies with probable release date after budget April 1. We were delayed due to including replies trickling in to get as much data as possible in report (on 7th version).

Mike Franklin will talk about how appeals could work in a forum an hour before next meeting at 5:30 for March 28th 6:30 meet. There will be taping for future training. Next project will be FOILing City Councils re their public comment policy. Volunteers needed.

NEW BUSINESS; Next Board meeting on zoom 4-11-24 6:30 pm.

ADJOURN 7:35 PM on motion by Pat Irving and second by Maria Tisby; motion carried.