

3-09-23 NEW YORK COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Sonia Dusza, Maria Tisby, Steve Lyle, AnnMarie Reeb, Lawrence Vito, Janet Vito, Mario, Robert Godlewski, Linda Clark, Michelle Allen, Ed Schneider, Jane Curtis, Alberta Roman(recorder), Paul Wolf(President).

Commented [a1]:

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER; At 6:36 pm, meeting called to order on zoom by President Paul Wolf.

Commented [a2]:

MEETING MINUTES FROM 02-09-23; Motion to approve last month meeting minutes made by Maria Tisby and seconded by Michelle Allen. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT; With 88 members(from 28 counties) and 67 currently paid, we have \$4916.15 as of 2/28/23 as reported on page 6 of agenda. Motion to accept Treasurer's report made by Alberta Roman and seconded by Sonia Dusza. Motion carried.

CALENDAR; This calendar is included for informational purposes only

OPEN MEETINGS LAW COMMITTEE; Chair Michelle Allen reported there was interesting participation from Cornell University students who are working on a policy report regarding the live streaming of meetings. We are looking for signatures on petition from elected officials to NOT discuss public business in private. Per Paul Wolf report we are interested in live streaming meetings, with purpose to determine how many local governments are doing livestreaming and to assist others to do so. AnnMarie has created a database of over a thousand communities. The Caucus gap in OML makes a sham of OML Motion made that the Board is in favor of distributing petition by Maria Tisby and seconded by Michelle Allen. Motion carried.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW COMMITTEE; Chair Maria Tisby reported on minutes of meeting. Legislator Steck has introduced a bill we drafted to make obtaining attorney fees in a FOIL and OML case easier.

Paul sent email to all 212 state legislators encouraging them to sponsor our legislative bill ideas and got no response. The Committee discussed a bill by Senator Tedisco to impose penalties for FOIL violations that did not have a single

Democratic Sponsor (so probably dead on arrival) and was reviewed by Committee. This bill was tabled for further discussion.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE; Co-Chair Michelle Allen reported our Sunshine Week forum is March 16th at 11 am on zoom which will highlight parts of the OML and FOIL law. Annual meeting speaker is Mark Mahoney, editor of the Daily Gazette in Schenectady, May 17 at 7:00 pm.

The Committee is continuing to research the idea of fundraising and the development of a litigation policy.

A social zoom meeting is suggested to be held on 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. A motion to hold social monthly as above made by Michelle Allen and seconded by Steve Lyle. Motion carried.

MEETING IN ALBANY IN PERSON; May 6th is suggested date for a approx. 2 hour meeting and 16 people have expressed interest. Coalition will pay for meal and pay 50% for transportation and motion made re this by Steve Lyle and seconded by Michelle Allen. Motion carried.

STATE BUDGET LETTER TO LEGISLATORS; Copy of letter is enclosed in agenda.

LETTER TO SHERIDAN NY; Copy of letter re meeting violation is enclosed in agenda

LETTER TO FRANKLINVILLE NY; Copy of letter re meeting violation is enclosed in agenda.

NEW BUSINESS; None.

Motion to end meeting at 7:23 pm made by Sonia Dusza and seconded by Maria Tisby. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETINGS; Open Meeting Law Committee Meeting 3-16-23 4 pm

FOIL Committee Meeting 3-23-23 1 pm

Zoom Social 3-23-23 6:30 pm

Public Relations Committee Meeting 4-6-23 3 pm

Coalition Board Meeting April 13, 6:30 pm.