

4-11-24 NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING

PRESENT ON ZOOM; Annmarie Reeb, Pat Irvine, Robert Godlewski, Courtney Fallon, Wendi Szabo(first time from Royalton), Sue Kelley, Brittany Turner(first time from Texas), Janet Vito, Stewart, Lisa, Michelle Allen, Axel Ebermann, Alberta Roman, Paul Wolf.

Meeting called to order by Paul Wolf, President at 6:32 pm.

NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING

MINUTES FROM LAST MONTH; Motion made to accept minutes for 3-14-2024 NY Coalition for Open Government by Annmarie and seconded by Axel. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT; Janet Vito reported 50 paid members and balance of \$4,951.16 on 3-31-2024. Motion made that Treasurer's report to be accepted by Alberta and seconded by Michelle. Motion carried. Janet requests people have their travel and hotel receipts from Albany trip in so reimbursement can occur. Janet will be donating up to \$120.00 re Albany reimbursement because she did not participate by going.

DRAFT CALENDAR; For informational purposes only about what we have done and what is coming up.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY; Motion made to accept the Public Relations Committee's recommendations about two months ago to have some guiding rules for commenting on FaceBook(page 9 of today's attachment) by Michelle and seconded by Annmarie. Motion carried.

AXEL REIMBURSEMENT FOR 2 SUNSHINE WEEK LUNCHESES; Motion made to reimburse Axel \$296.30 for Albany Lunches by Michelle and seconded by Maria. Motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE; Axel reporting about successful Albany Lobbying trip by 8 people. Injecting the ideas of play and fun and preparedness was what set our group apart and contributed to success of having needed sign on by necessary Legislator to our Bill Package. Also addressed was member recruitment and retention with suggestion of handing out cards.

Annual meeting coming up with possibility of inviting Guest Speaker John McDonald for 2nd week in May 6:30 pm and recognizing people, such as interns for the work they contribute.

Fundraising work group is active, more to come.

OPEN MEETINGS LAW COMMITTEE; Michelle reporting about revised public comment report due to complaints of inaccuracy.

A training is being planned re how to speak at a public meeting. Paul has been doing research on how to engage public by "building in public" prior to creating training content.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW COMMITTEE; Maria reported Final FOIL project report of 70 State Agencies close to being complete, started in July. Gov Hochul mandated 70 Agencies to create transparency plans and these are the focus of our report.

On March 28 at 5:30 pm we did a training on hearing officer bill(one of ours). It was recorded.

A new FOIL project is being planned (have 10 volunteers already)where we will request public policies from City Councils(61). Foiling begins 4-12-24 per Annmarie.

NEW BUSINESS; Courtney raised issue of mentoring, partnering and more pizzazz at Albany meetings. Wendi raised issue of executive sessions and Paul related this is the most frequent area of inquiry and often done wrong. (One of our bills would mandate training on FOIL and OML to elected officials.)

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Maria and seconded by Axel. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 7:46 pm.

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