

Minutes for Buffalo Niagara Coalition for Open Government April 9, 2020

Meeting held via Zoom called to order at 6:35 p.m. Present: Paul Wolf, Joe Kissel, Sonia Dusza, Maria Tisby, Ed McKee, Steve Lyle.

Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes from March 12, 2020, were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Janet Vito provided a written report to Paul Wolf showing our account balance on 3/31/20 as \$1,364.16. Maria made a motion to accept the report which was seconded by Sonia and unanimously approved.

Buffalo News Articles: Attached to the meeting agenda were copies of two Buffalo News articles that mentioned our organization, which Paul Wolf reviewed.

Name Changed Approved New York Coalition For Open Government: Our corporate name change from the Buffalo Niagara Coalition for Open Government to the New York Coalition For Open Government has been approved by the NY State Dept. of State. Next step will be to complete our 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

Amend By-Laws to Change Our Name and Title for Vice Presidents: Revised by-laws were attached to the meeting agenda. The only changes proposed are to change the name of our organization and to change how Vice Presidents are titled. The by-laws currently refer to a Vice President for Erie County and a Vice President for Niagara County. As we are now becoming a statewide focused organization the Vice Presidents will change to the 1st Vice President and the 2nd Vice President. We will figure out at the January officer elections who fills what position. Sonia made a motion to amend the by-laws seconded by Maria and unanimously approved.

Niagara County Lawsuit: Paul Wolf stated that the Courts are currently closed and as such our lawsuit against Niagara County is on hold until things open back up.

March 19, 2020 Sunshine Week Event

Understanding the Open Meetings Law & the Need For Reform: Due to the COVID-19 crisis our Sunshine Week event had to be cancelled. A discussion took place about doing the event in September. Joe Kissel suggested doing the event now through Zoom. Paul Wolf and others preferred to wait to do the event at a later date.

County Leg/City Council Report: Our next report according to our calendar for the year is to address how County Legislatures and City Councils handle public participation at their meetings. Several members have helped to review websites as part of this project.

New Business: The Governor's Executive Order regarding the holding of meetings remotely was discussed.

Adjourn: Sonia made motion to adjourn seconded by Ed, meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm

Next meeting will be May 14th, 6:30 pm probably via Zoom