

5-11-23 NYCOALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Michelle Allen, Sue Kelly, Annmarie Reeb, Maria Tisby, Darlene Bolsover, Lawrence Vito, Janet Vito, Linda Bonk, Robert Godlewski, Marylou Kling, Paul Wolf, Alberta Roman (recorder)

Meeting NYCOG called to order by President Paul Wolf at 6:34 pm 5-11-23 on zoom. MINUTES ; 4-13-23 Meeting Minutes approved on motion by Maria Tisby and seconded by Marylou.

TREASURER REPORT; Janet Vito, Treasurer, report \$5,660.27 as of 4-30-23 with no expenses in April. Motion to approve report made by Alberta Roman and seconded by Sue. Motion carried.

CALENDAR 2023: Included in agenda packet for informational purposes.

ALBANY MEETING: 18 people from all across NYState attended in person-awesome! Considering doing again in November 2nd Sat in Albany and in March-Sunshine Week

NATIONAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COALITION: Dues \$250 with on line summit yearly. Motion made by Michelle Allen to renew membership in NFOIC and seconded by Marylou. Motion carried.

OPEN MEETINGS LAW COMMITTEE: Michelle Allen, Chair, reporting.

A. Students put together a chart and graph and 8 page summary for live streaming report. When this report is released about June 1st, students are interested in participating. Annmarie did a very good job on gathering data.

B. Petition circulating to elected officials re; pledging not discussing public business in closed meetings is slow going. Maybe we should consider creating a list of people who should sign and are not as well as educating people on the issue. Marylou offered to keep track of emails sent out if bcc'd by sender. Paul will resend request email.

C. Completing report regarding public comments at meetings.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW COMMITTEE: Maria Tisby, Chair, reporting.

A. Enforcement report released.

B. Bill by Sen. Skoufis was discussed and determined to have good and bad points.

Paul Wolf will discuss with Sen. Skoufis not to include possibility that FOIL filers may have to pay attorney fees.

C. There should not be non-disclosure agreement in use of public money in bill by Sen. Gianaris and Assembly Solages. Michelle Allen made a motion for Board to support this legislation and seconded by Maria Tisby. Motion carried.

D. NY is one state of 3 that does not allow cameras in courtrooms.

Holyman/Weprin have a bill supporting cameras in courtrooms supported by Committee Michelle Allen proposed board support also and Marylou seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Report by Michelle Allen, Chair.

A. Committee has been working on a litigation policy which will be finished soon.

B. May 17 at 7 pm is annual meeting.

C. Support by Board for student free speech act (S2958/A4402) is proposed by Committee. See their website at new voices. Motion for Board support is made by Maria Tisby and seconded by Alberta Roman. Motion carried.

D. Circle communication app discussed with trial to happen initiated by Paul Wolf. If you have a computer or smart phone you can do.

NEW BUSINESS: Channel 2 news covered a letter Paul sent to Buffalo Common Council where we questioned process Council used in creating a commission to raise pay of elected officials. NY is one of 3 states that has no penalty for violation of FOIL Law. Twitter posts by Paul generated thousands of views.

Motion to end meeting made by Michelle Allen, and seconded by Marylou Motion carried at 7:41pm.

NEXT MEETINGS ON ZOOM; May 18, 2023 4 pm OML

May 25 1pm FOIL

May 25 6:30 pm SOCIAL

June 1st, 3:00 pm Public Relations

NY COALITION Board June 8, 6:30 pm