

Minutes for Buffalo Niagara Coalition for Open Government May 3, 2018 meeting

Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Paul Wolf. Present: Janet Vito, Lawrence Vito, Jim Tricoli, Joe Kissel, Richard Bertrand, Ken Foit, Mike Kless, Austin Tylec, Gary Dickson, Josh Hojnowski.

Meeting Minutes: Mike Kless made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 29, 2018 meeting, seconded by Jim Tricoli. Minutes unanimously approved.

Board of Directors: As a newly formed non-profit corporation we need to establish our initial Board of Directors. Mike Kless made a motion to nominate the following slate of Directors:

Paul Wolf	President (Term expires 1/19)
Jim Tricoli	Vice President Erie County (1/19)
Brian Hellner	Vice President Niagara County (1/19)
Ed McKee	Treasurer (1/19)
Joseph Kissel	Secretary (1/19)
Jonathan Manes	Board of Directors (1/20)
Michael Kless	Board of Directors (1/20)
Richard Bertrand	Board of Directors (1/20)
Janet Vito	Board of Directors (1/20)
Lawrence Vito	Board of Directors (1/20)
Sonia Dusza	Board of Directors (1/20)

The motion was seconded by Jim Tricoli and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Due to Treasurer Ed McKee's absence, Paul Wolf reported BNCOG's balance as \$1,129.57. The law firm of Lipsitz & Ponterio sent a check for \$300 to be our first corporate sponsor. Larry Vito made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report seconded by Rich Bertrand. Treasurer's Report unanimously approved.

Follow-Up to Our Recent Reports: Paul Wolf spoke to the Lockport City Council and the West Seneca Town Board regarding our recent website report. The Buffalo News wrote an article about our presentations. Paul has been invited to speak at a Niagara Falls City Council meeting on May 9th.

Austin Tylec a member of the North Tonawanda City Council encouraged Paul to come speak at a North Tonawanda City Council meeting.

Paul has contacted the New York State Comptroller's office about meeting with us. Deputy Comptroller Andy SanFillipo is working on this. Paul has also contacted Assemblymember Robin Schimminger and Senator Ranzenhoffer about meeting with WNY legislators to discuss our recommendations to amend the Open Meetings Law.

Next Report: Financial Disclosure Forms

A discussion took place about holding a press conference in downtown Buffalo possibly on May 17th or 18th at 10:00 a.m. Paul will look into where a press conference can be held and will notify the members.

Mike Kless suggested that we refer to the Disclosure Form used by the state as a comparison to the form used by local governments. Paul indicated that the New York State Bar Association did a report a few years ago and they have a recommended form that may be helpful as well.

Website/Logo: Our website is down due to some error. Ed McKee has identified a volunteer who is trying to help us address the problem. Paul handed out some sample logos that he created on a website for feedback. Our Facebook followers has increased from 40 in October to 112 now!

September Speaker: Susan Lerner, the Executive Director of Common Cause has agreed to be a guest speaker at a September event. Brett Orzechowski, a Utica professor who has written a book about New York's FOIL law that is coming out in April declined the opportunity to speak. The League of Women Voters Board of Directors will discuss next week whether they would like to co-sponsor the event with us again. A League member indicated that they already have an event planned for September. Paul Wolf advised the League that moving this event to October would not be a problem. Paul will also contact John Kaheny the Executive Director of Reinvent Albany to see if he is willing to speak at the event as well.

New Business: No new business was brought up.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. Next meeting will be June 7, 2018, 5:30 pm at the Williamsville Library.