

5-9-24 NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT Board Meeting on Zoom

PRESENT; Robert Godlewski, Janet Vito, Michelle Allen, Robyn Gray, Maria Tisby, Sonia Dusza, Annmarie Reeb, Sue Kelley, Pat Irving, Axel Ebermann, Stuart Allen, Wendy Szabio, Ken Guarino, Alberta Roman, Paul Wolf.

NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING; Called to order on zoom at 6:35pm 5-9-24 by President Paul Wolf.

MEETING MINUTES FROM 4-11-24; Two corrections in spelling for Pat Irving and Stuart. Motion to accept minutes with corrections by Maria and second by Annmarie. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT; Janet Vito Treasurer report 54 total members with balance of 5,224.86 on 4-30-24 with need to take out restricted funds(Larry Vito). Motion to accept Treasurer's report as reported by Alberta and second by Michelle. Motion carried.

DRAFT CALENDAR; This 2024 calendar is for informational purposes. May cover something by 4th of July.

COALITION ANNUAL MEETING; This date is Wed. 5-15-24 thru zoom with special speakers unconfirmed at present..two NYS Senators being considered. We will also recognize Interns per Michelle and Alex to recognize volunteer work.

EQUAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY; Paul reported this opportunity as informed by Cory which is interesting and must be applied for to get a free attorney to pay up to \$63,000 a year Things to think about are insurances needed up to approx. \$15 to 20,000 a year, or a 1099 employee. Michelle made a motion to fill out paperwork for application and Annmarie second. After discussion the motion was withdrawn. A new motion by Annmarie to explore options around application for Fellowship opportunity with a second by Michelle. Motion carried. There are many possibilities here and Paul will keep in mind application due by Sept. 24 with start in Sept 2025 if accepted. This could be a fund raising purpose for us.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE; Axel Chairperson reporting re fundraising ethics in a "cleaned up" version of guidelines presented to establish some ground rules. The spirit of this document is to align further action here with our organization/brand. Since this is a public facing document we will want some oversight, i.e. may not want to accept money from all offers. Many operational items like disclaimer re return of funds if over achieved will be addressed ongoingly. Motion made to accept "cleaned up" version of guidelines of fundraising ethics by Robyn and second by Maria. Motion carried.

Stuart Allen will be hosting our Coalition Social on May 30, 6:30pm on zoom.
Paul discussed our first Newsletter that will be coming out Sunday.

OPEN MEETINGS LAW COMMITTEE; Michelle Chairperson reporting re planning a training session on how to make public comments at meetings.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW COMMITTEE; Maria Chairperson report that final FOIL project regarding state agencies was released on May 2, with clear bar graphs by Annmarie. There is a recording of this press conference on our youtube and FaceBook pages. Several newspapers reported this event.

FOIL project regarding City Council public comment policies is under way with 10 volunteers headed by Annmarie for 61 cities to be surveyed.

NEW BUSINESS; Our National Freedom of Information Coalition(NFOIC) membership dues are up for renewal. Motion to pay \$250.00 dues to NFOIC made by Sonia and second by Michelle. Motion carried.

Annmarie updated moving along with acknowledgement of volunteers on Cities project.

Michelle report that 6 bills are making great strides on legislative reform and making a difference.

Motion to adjourn made by Maria and second by Annmarie. Motion carried at 7:43.

NEXT MEETING; BOARD MEETING JUNE 13, 2024 AT 6:30 PM

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