

6-13-24 NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING ON ZOOM

PRESENT; Quorum present, Maria Tisby, Janet Vito, Annmarie Reeb, Sue Kelley, Michelle Allen, Pat Irving, Axel Ebermann, Sonia Dusza, Ken Guarino, Stuart Allen, Paul Wolf.

NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT BOARD MEETING; Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm by President Paul Wolf. Paul explained that we have no roll call for approval of motions (as that would slow down meeting) and that voice vote is taken as approval unless someone voices otherwise.

MEETING MINUTES FROM 5-9-24; Meeting minutes from 5-09-24 on a motion to approve by Annmarie and second by Axel. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT; Janet Vito treasurer report 59 members and available funds \$5,114.86 and \$5,4774.86 with reserved funds (Larry Vito memorial). Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Maria and second by Sue. Motion carries.

DRAFT CALENDAR 2024; This is for informational purposes only.

EQUAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY; Discussion led by Paul with new information that meeting had with Heather Abraham of UB Law School Clinic was very encouraging about the possibility of collaboration, on the securing of attorney services at \$65,500.00 salary per year. It may be too soon for application to be in by 9/2024 and will consider for the following year. There would be the issue of our responsibility to pay insurances for the services of this lawyer (\$15-20,00 split with UB) that we would have to fund raise to provide the necessary \$7500.00 times 2 years.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION RESULT; Per Paul we did not get any of our sponsored bills passed this session (some approved by Senate and some by Assembly). However we did learn a lot, made good connections, and laid groundwork for moving ahead. The bill to mandate website (unfunded) be had by every municipality needs to be signed by Gov. Hochul after being sent back to Senate(?).

PUBLIC RELATION/EDUCATION COMMITTEE; Axel report that press awards 6/27/24 at 10:30 am via zoom to have 10 organizations in total....8 media news organizations and 2 student.

Coalition newsletter...second...sent and contributions welcome.

Stewart Allen hosted our Fantastic Coalition Social on May 30.

Discussion of doing an event for the 50th anniv. FOIL in Sept. had and to continue.

New member recruitment discussion with much more possible in this area by reaching out to other org. Education sessions to be tracked. Business cards are useful.

OPEN MEETING LAW COMMITTEE; Michelle reporting that planning a training session on how to make public comments at meetings in process. Michelle and Robyn are working on a general OML training.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW COMMITTEE; Maria reporting, with Annmarie, that FOIL project regarding City Council Public comment policies with 61 Cities(not currently do NYC)is almost done and may ask for more volunteers. Material will come to the Board for review before going out to press. We are working on a FOIL training session that we can have members present in their communities.

NEW BUSINESS; Maria spoke the information of available resources for people with limited English proficiency in NYS budget with consideration of FOIL and OML that she is working on. Topic of School Boards and Economic Development Agencies transparency bought up. What we're speaking of is Democracy at local Level.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Axel and second by Michelle
Motion carried at 7:36 pm. Alberta Roman author of minutes.

NEXT MEETING; Next Board meeting will be July 11, 6:30 pm.

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