

06-08- 23 NY COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENTG BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT; Maria Tisby, Marylou Kling, Lawrence Vito, Janet Vito, Ken Guarino, Annmarie Reeb, Sonia Dusza, Mary Harris, Michelle Allen, Linda Bond, Nathan, Robert Godlewski, Jane Curtis, Darlene Bolsover, Victoria Ross(WNY Peace Center), Paul Wolf, Alberta Roman(Recorder)

MEETING NYCOG BOARD; President Paul Wolf start video recording and call to order at 6:35 pm 6-08-23 on zoom.

MEETING OF 5-11-23 NYCOG BOARD MINUTES: Motion to approve made by Maria Tisby and seconded by Marylou Kling. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Janet Vito, Treasurer, report 72 paid members from 29 counties as of 3-31-23 for total \$4,959.23. Motion to accept report made by Michelle Allen and seconded by Sonia Dusza. Motion carried.

CALENDAR 2023: Included on Agenda pages 6-8.

OPEN MEETINGS LAW COMMITTEE: Michelle Allen, Chair, reporting (agenda 9-10) as follows;

A. Press conference Thurs June 15th at 11 am regarding report of live streaming of meetings in conjunction with Cornell students.

B. Report to support amending the Open Meetings Law, to mandate that the public comments occur at meetings, to be released in July.

C. Committee recommends that the Coalition do a report seeking to have advisory committees covered by the OML, which is the case in 31 states now. After much discussion a motion made by Michelle Allen to follow recommendation and have Advisory Committees covered in OML. Motion was seconded by Sonia Dusza and motion carried.

5. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW COMMITTEE: Maria Tisby, Chair reporting that there is no mechanism for NY State tracking FOIL requests. Gov. Hochul directed State agencies to track FOIL requests a Federal Gov does. There is no way to do reform outside a report about current status. Included in tracking should be how many made, reasons denied, how long to process, Annmarie reported step 1 of FIL project is being worked on and will ask for volunteers.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Report by Michelle Allen Co-Chair

A. Committee recommends litigation policy. Motion to approve made by Maria Tisby to approve and seconded by Sonia Dusza. Motion carried.

B. Annual meeting held May 17 with guest speaker Mark Mahoney (recorded by Paul) reviewed and well received. We were able to recognize people who stood up for open government. 40 people were signed up.

C. Committee recommends moving forward with circle App. (private facebook group) for \$39 per month to get communication between members increased. Annmarie offered training.

D. Committee is working on one page flyer. Darlene to work on flyer layout.

NY COMMITTEE ON OPEN GOVERNMENT: There will be a meeting July 11, @ 10 am and we have been invited to submit ideas for the Committee's 2023 annual report. This is the first time we have been reached out to for input. Plan to submit 5 items including Constitutional Amendment, Mandatory Attorney Fees, Mandating Live Streaming, Enforcement Powers by Restructuring the

Committee or by a Hearing Officer System, and Requiring State Agencies to track FOIL requests. Some bills have been introduced in Senate and Assembly with simple changes in some of these regards

NEW BUSINESS: Sonia Dusza bought up idea of documenting politicians stand on open government issues.

Maria Tisby bought up some issues on difficulty getting information from State Agencies, particularly around ezpass/NY State Thruway.

Motion to Adjourn made by Marylou Kling and seconded by Alberta Roman. Meeting ended after 1 hour 23 min. duration.

NEXT MEETINGS: NYCOALITION BOARD MEETING JULY 13, 6:30 PM

OML COMMITTEE JUNE 15, 4 PM

FOIL COMMITTEE JUNE 22ND 1 PM

PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE JULY 6, 3 PM

ZOOM SOCIAL JUNE 29, 6:30 PM

4