

**Delaware Coalition for Open Government
Virtual Board Meeting by Zoom
September 6, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: Keith Steck called the board meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Pre-board reports:

1. Treasurer's Report of August 31, 2022.
2. Minutes August 9, 2022
3. Attorney General Opinion and related No 22-IB21 and related documents
4. DelCOG forum event flyer
5. Bills signed by Governor
6. Bills signed sequentially

PRESENT: David Breen, Letty Diswood, Al Jackson, John Kowalko III, Coralie Pryde, Anita Rush, Keith Steck.

ABSENT: John Flaherty, John Morgan, Nick Wasileski excused.

DelCOG members: Amy Roe, Katherine Ward.

GUESTS: Sarah Busic.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. **Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves and Keith Steck welcomed everyone.
2. Appointment of Parliamentarian: John Kowalko, III was appointed parliamentarian.
3. **Meeting Minutes:** It was moved and seconded, to accept Draft #2 of the minutes of the August 9, 2022, board meeting. Motion approved unanimously.
4. **Treasurer Report:** Anita Rush reported that there was no activity in August. She gave the Treasurer's Report for August 31, 2022.
The current balances in the checking and savings accounts:
 WSFS checking account balance as of August 31, 2022, was \$3,711.55
 WSFS savings account balance as of August 31, 2022, was \$2,776.96
 Total account balance as of August 31, 2022, was \$6,488.51.
The Treasurer's report was adopted as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Update on Writing Chapter for Inspector General Book.** Ward reported that the project was moving forward with writing a chapter for the forthcoming IG book to be produced by Robin Kempt.
2. **Update on DE IG Initiative:** Wasileski and Steck discussed DE IG Initiative with the candidate for auditor and provided clarifications she had asked for.

UNFINISHED/ONGOING BUSINESS:

Elected Officials Reception: The EOR was moved a back to allow for Amy Roe to discuss the AG response and issues with the Minutes of the **Childhood Lead Poisoning Advisory Committee minutes**. In reference to the **Childhood Lead Poisoning Advisory Committee minutes**, Amy Roe had not been able to get the minutes for April and May 2022, and had submitted a FOIA request for the minutes.

- 1. AG Responses to FOIA Complaints (Update on FOIA issues):** Roe and Busic reviewed the sequence of events and filing of the FOIA complaint. She did receive a response that said the agency had violated FOIA and the agency needed to correct problem. Roe asked for advice from members of DelCOG present.
Suggestions:
Use this topic to reform the problems that seem to be pervasive.
Use this as a starting point and work with Roe.
Propose Roe to file a complaint about email redaction of state legislators.
File complaint of one issue (email communications and legislators redacted email).
Roe will monitor and keep DelCOG updated.
Contact legislators that redactions were made in the FOIA response. They may not be aware of the items being blocked.
- 2. Elected Officials Reception December 5, 2022:** Ward discussed issues if we go forward with the receptions and legal implications if it would have to be cancelled for health and other reasons. We would not get deposit back but can reschedule reception. A motion by Kowalko, III, and seconded, to move forward with reception as long as it is \$1000 or less. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 3. Reminder of Sept. 21 Presentation of Weitzman Book “What’s The Matter with Delaware:** Steck reminded everyone to register and invite friends. There are 25 signed up at this time. Another email blast will be sent shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Ad Hoc Committee to Revise Minor Errors and Omissions in DelCOG’s Bylaws:** Steck discussed that the bylaws need revision to reflect practice. A committee was appointed to include Steck, Kowalko, III and Ward.
- 2. Downstate Issues – Local and State Meetings & Hearings in English only:** Steck reported that public hearings are being held in English only in an area where the populations affected by a proposed bio energy plant, predominately speaks Spanish, and some Creole. Hearings are held virtually. There is an organization that serves this community with language translation and could provide room for an interpreter at these hearings.
- 3. Looking into State of Delaware Retiree Medicare Advantage plan:** Steck is looking into this proposal. The driver of this change is the underfunded state health care plan for retirees. He will send his findings to the board. There is a new group formed called Rise Delaware to oppose this plan. Email: risedelaware@gmail.com.

4. **Missing Written Public Comments in House Hearings:** Flaherty absent. Topic moved to next meeting.

OPEN FORUM (Nothing put forward)

1. **The next DelCOG Board meeting will be Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom.**
Note changed schedule for board meeting Tuesdays from now on.

Adjourned: 7:51 p.m.

Submitted by Letty Diswood, Secretary