

**Delaware Coalition for Open Government
Virtual Board Meeting by Zoom
Tuesday, May 2, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: John Kowalko III called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

Pre-board reports:

1. Minutes of April 4, 2023
2. Bank Statements of April 30, 2023
3. Treasurer's Report of April 30, 2023

PRESENT: John Kowalko III, Al Jackson, Anita Rush, Coralie Pryde, Cynthia Smith, Nick Wasileski

DelCOG members: Bill Herron, Connie Merlet, Frank Sims, Gary Steelman, Lynn Troy Manscalco, Sarah Bucic, Sharon Kwiatkoski

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. **Introduction:** John Kowalko III welcomed board members, DelCOG members and guests. Bill Herron volunteered to take meeting notes since Secretary Letty Diswood could not attend.
2. **Meeting Minutes:** The meeting minutes for the April 4, 2023 DelCOG meeting were approved without revision.
3. **Treasurer Report:** Anita Rush provided update on current balances in the checking and savings accounts

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Sunshine Week 2023 Event Committee:** John Kowalko III reported on the Sunshine Week event. 76 people attended the event. A video link is available to anyone that asks for it.
2. **Inspector General Committee:** Nick Wasileski reported on the Inspector General Bill. He reported that Senator Sturgeon has not submitted the bill yet and it does not yet have a number. Hopefully it will be introduced this session. The Inspector General Committee is accepting new members. Sharon and Cynthia offered to join.
3. **Inspector General Book Chapter Committee:** Nick Wasileski reported that Villanova's Law School will be hosting an event on May 24, 2023 at Villanova Law School with the authors of the various book chapters.
4. **FOIA Committee:** John Kowalko reported that HS 1 for HB 34 was passed by the Senate and signed by the Governor. Bill requires public comment on major agenda items at school board meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Lead-Free Delaware Update:** Sarah Bucic reported that Lead Free Delaware is submitting a letter to State Auditor York calling for an audit of the Medicare EPSDT Screenings. These involve lead blood, vision and hearing screening of children by Delaware school nurses.

Motion was made and seconded: DelCOG supports signing on to the letter circulated by Lead-Free Delaware to State Auditor Lydia York calling for an Audit of Medicare EPSDT screenings.

Motion approved unanimously. Nick Wasileski volunteered to be contact person on letter.

2. **HB 96 School Board Elections:** John Kowalko III reported on HB 96 which would allow 16 and 17 year old high school students to vote in School Board elections.

Motion was made and seconded: DelCOG supports HB 96 to allow 16 and 17 years olds to vote in school board elections, which will increase the oversight and accountability of these elected boards.

Motion approved unanimously. John Kowalko will reach out to sponsor Eric Morrison.

3. **HB 104 Land Use Application Exemptions:** John Kowalko III reported out on HB 104 which allows involves Land Use Exemptions for non-residential projects over 50,000 square feet to skip initial State oversight and Public Comment sessions by creating broad exemption from state's PLUS application process.

Motion was made and seconded: DelCOG supports having the committee hearing for this bill put on hold until next legislative year so that the public has an opportunity to review this bill.

Motion approved unanimously. John Kowalko will reach out to committee members.

NEXT MEETING

The next DelCOG meeting will be Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by John Kowalko based on draft from Bill Herron.