North Carolina Open Government Coalition Board Meeting
December 16, 2019 – Conference Call

Attendance: Rick Thames (president), Angie Newsome (vice president), Paulette Brown Bracy (treasurer), Rick Gall (immediate past president), Brooks Fuller (director), Rick Mercier, Monica Hill, Robyn Tomlin, Phil Lucey, Ju-Don Marshall, Jessica Gisclair, Jon Buchan, Annette Privette-Keller

Agenda

I. Call to Order 10:03 a.m.
II. Approval of Meeting Minutes (October 11, 2019)
   a. Robyn moved for the adoption of the minutes from the previous meeting. Rick Gall seconded the motion. After no discussion, the motion pass unanimously.
III. Whistleblower and Conflict of Interest Policies
   a. Brooks Fuller reminded board members to turn in whistleblower and conflict of interest policies.
IV. Finance Update
   a. Fundraising
      i. Fuller reported that Giving Tuesday efforts raised $520.
      ii. Fuller reported that he sent out letters to original Knight Foundation donors and have received some interest in future giving. To date, no funds have been raised from this campaign.
V. Barrows Award
   a. Call for committee to review apps. Annette Privette-Keller, Jud-Don Marshall, and Angie Newsome volunteered to review applications for the Barrows Award.
   b. Fuller reported that some friends from Frank Barrows have expressed interest in donating year to year.
   c. Rick Thames suggested publicizing Sunshine Day in conjunction with the award. Jon Buchan asked for recommendations from the board on additional fundraising efforts, to which Ju-Don Marshall said she would circulate the award call the Observer alumni group.
VI. Sunshine Day Updates
   a. Keynote – Chris Brook, judge on NC Court of Appeals, has accepted an invitation to give the 2020 keynote. Fuller shared some information from Judge Brook’s biography and rough outline of topics for his talk.
   b. WRAL reporting collaborative – Rick Gall gave a report on the WRAL/NCOGC/media partner Sunshine Week initiative.
      i. This is the sixth year of NCOGC and WRAL collaborative. Rick Gall reported that WRAL has reached out to 10 media outlets and four have are committed to joining the project. There will be a final count by December 20. Some possible story ideas: open meetings/violations and cost of campaign trail events for municipal and local governments.
   c. Panels – Fuller reported the panel schedule for Sunshine Day. The following panels are anticipated, and we are looking for volunteers to speak/moderate each.
i. Coverage issues and transparency issues surrounding election and campaign events (conventions, etc.)
ii. The Future of Open Data in NC
iii. Covering law enforcement and issues with the police body cam law (retrospective and prospective access issues)
iv. Nuts and Bolts Legal training for student and early career journalists
v. Update regarding common public records issues (how to work well with local and state government offices)

d. Sunshine Awards call – Fuller reported that the awards call will be posted January 2020. Please encourage applications.

VII. Motion to Amend Bylaws
a. Board composition – Rick Thames offered a motion to amend the bylaws (attached) to change board composition and Jon Buchan seconded. Ju-Don Marshall raised a question about reasoning behind the bylaw amendment. Fuller and Thames responded that the amendment gives us flexibility to add representation from government and other sectors that might cross fields. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Principal Address – Rick Thames offered a motion to amend the bylaws (attached) to change the principal address. Pauletta Brown Bracy seconded. After no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Director’s Activity Report
a. Hotline Data – Since our last meeting, 30 unique requests to NCOGC, 10 of which were media requests where we gave comment or advice.

b. Talks – Fuller spoke to two media law classes and one journalism class at Elon about public records and access issues.

c. Panels – Fuller served as a panelist at public meeting on state of local journalism at Elon Community Church along with other journalism professors and journalists.

IX. Update on Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press local legal initiative – Phil Lucey reports that no decision has been made regarding the RCFP attorney position, but the RCFP anticipates reviewing applications through December, with an expected decision in January.

X. The meeting adjourned 10:50 a.m.
Motions to Amend North Carolina Open Government Coalition Bylaws
Agreed to unanimously on December 16, 2019

Motion to Amend Bylaws. Article II, Section 2 of the NC Open Government Coalition bylaws currently reads:

Section 2. Number, Term and Qualifications: The number of directors shall be sixteen (16). The immediate past president shall serve as a director following the conclusion of his or her term as president. The remaining fifteen (15) directors shall be divided into three classes of five directors each. Five of the original directors shall serve terms of one year; five shall serve terms of two years; and five shall serve terms of three years. Following the terms of the initial directors, the term of office for each director shall be three years. The board of directors shall include eight persons who represent media organizations; two who represent libraries, colleges or universities and historical organizations; two from the law; one representative of a public-interest group; one from government; and one person chosen at large.

The NC Open Government Coalition president, Rick Thames, moves that the board vote to amend Article II, Section 2 to read as follows:

Section 2. Number, Term and Qualifications: The number of directors shall be sixteen (16). The immediate past president shall serve as a director following the conclusion of his or her term as president. The remaining fifteen (15) directors shall be divided into three classes of five directors each. Five of the original directors shall serve terms of one year; five shall serve terms of two years; and five shall serve terms of three years. Following the terms of the initial directors, the term of office for each director shall be three years. The board of directors shall include eight persons who represent media organizations; two who represent libraries, colleges or universities and historical organizations; two from the law; one representative of a public-interest group; one from government; and one person chosen at large.

Motion to Amend Bylaws. Article I, Section 1 of the NC Open Government Coalition bylaws currently reads:

Section 1. Principal office: The corporation’s principal office shall be located at 215 South McDowell Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602.

Executive director, Brooks Fuller, moves that the board vote to Amend Article I, Section 1 to read as follows:

Section 1. Principal office: The corporation’s principal office shall be located at 215 South McDowell Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602 Elon University, 2850 Campus Box, Elon, North Carolina 27244.