



OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN MEETINGS POLICY

I. Statement of Policy

The Ohio Historical Society strongly supports the right of all citizens to gain access to information about its activities. The Society conducts its activities in ways to allow public awareness of and involvement in its decision-making.

Although the Society is not a “public body” subject to Ohio’s Open Meetings Law (O.R.C. 121.22), it is the official policy of the Society to permit members of the public to attend meetings of its Board of Trustees. It has established procedures for citizens to submit information and questions to the Board and to request permission to address the Board. Notice of the date, time, and place of Board meetings and the Board’s agenda are available from the Executive Director’s Office and the Society’s web site, and copies of minutes of the meetings of the Board may be obtained from the Executive Director’s Office or viewed on the Society’s web site.

II. Board of Trustees Meetings: Operating Procedures

Because of the public interest in its activities and the public funds appropriated to perform public functions, the Society has adopted an Open Meetings Policy. Under this policy, meetings of the Board of Trustees are open to the public. Information on the date, time, and place of Board meetings and the agenda for the meetings can be obtained from the Executive Director’s Office as well as the web site of the Society. Requests to address the Board may be submitted to the Executive Director’s Office and will be decided by the President of the Board subject to review by a majority of Board members present. Persons may also submit questions and information to the Board in writing or by email. They should be submitted to the Executive Director who will distribute them to members of the Board.

The Society’s Board of Trustees reserves the right to go into executive session to deliberate and consider such matters as personnel and legal matters; acquisitions of real estate and collections; and revenue strategies, the premature disclosure of which might put the Society at a competitive disadvantage. The decision to enter executive session will be announced by the President, but shall be subject to review by a majority of the voting members of the Board who are present at the meeting. Attendance at executive sessions shall be limited to voting members of the Board and such other persons as shall be invited to attend the session.

Members of the public may request to attend and address a committee meeting. Such requests must be forwarded to the Executive Director, who will review the request with committee members. Reports of committee discussions and recommendations will be presented at meetings of the full Board of Trustees.

Minutes of Board meetings shall be open to public inspection after the Board has approved them. Copies of the minutes may be obtained from the Executive Director’s Office and may be viewed on the Society’s web site.