

VPM Open Meetings Policy

Whereas Section 396(k)(4) of the Communications Act provides that:

"Funds may not be distributed pursuant to this subsection to the Public Broadcasting Service or National Public Radio (or any successor organization), or to the licensee or permittee of any public broadcast station, unless the governing body of any such organization, any committee of such governing body, or any advisory body of any such organization, holds open meetings preceded by reasonable notice to the public. All persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the board, or of any such committee or body, and no person shall be required, as a condition to attendance at any such meeting, to register such person's name or to provide any other information. Nothing contained in this paragraph shall be construed to prevent any such board, committee, or body from holding closed sessions to consider matters relating to individual employees, proprietary information, litigation and other matters requiring the confidential advice of counsel, commercial or financial information obtained from a person on a privileged or confidential basis, or the purchase of property or services whenever the premature exposure of such purchase would compromise the business interests of any such organization. If any such meeting is closed pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph, the organization involved shall thereafter (within a reasonable period of time) make available to the public a written statement containing an explanation of the reasons for closing the meeting."

Whereas Section 397(5) of the Act provides that:

"The term 'meeting' means the deliberations of at least the number of members of a governing or advisory body, or any committee thereof, required to take action on behalf of such body or committee where such deliberations determine or result in the joint conduct or disposition of the governing or advisory body's business, or the committee's business, as the case may be, but only to the extent that such deliberations relate to public broadcasting."

VPM Media Corporation will:

1. Open the meetings of its governing body to the public;
2. Open the meetings of its community advisory board or any advisory body of the governing board to the public;
3. Give reasonable notice to the public of the fact, time and place of an open meeting at least one week (7 days) in advance of the scheduled date of an open meeting;
4. Allow all persons to attend any open meeting of the board or advisory board, without requiring, as a condition of attendance, that the person register or provide such person's name or any other information, except as would be reasonably required to maintain a safe meeting environment; and

5. If a meeting is closed pursuant to the exceptions recognized by the law, make available to the public, within a reasonable period of time after the closed meeting, a written statement containing an explanation of the reason(s) for closing the meeting.

To comply with “reasonable notice” requirements, VPM Media Corporation will

1. Provide notice of the meeting through an announcement that is accessible on the station's Web page; and
2. Provide notice by letter, e-mail, fax, phone, or in person to any individuals who have specifically requested to be notified; and
3. Make on-air announcements on at least three consecutive days once during each calendar quarter that explain the station's open meeting policy and provide information about how the public can obtain information regarding specific dates, times, and locations.

To satisfy the requirement that a written explanation be offered after a meeting is closed to the public:

1. The explanation of the reasons for a closed meeting should be distributed in the same manner as the notice of an open meeting, made available to the public at the station's offices, posted on the station's Web site, or by offering to mail a copy of the explanation to any person who requests one. If applicable, a reasonable charge for this service, or the requirement of a self-addressed, stamped envelope, may be considered.
2. In the case of regularly scheduled meetings that are usually open to the public, the station will give advance notice of the fact that such a meeting will be closed when the occasion arises. The notice that such a normally open meeting will be closed should be disseminated in the same manner as the notice of an open meeting. Meetings that are not regularly scheduled would not need an advance notice of closing.

Information requests should be sent to sarahmpayne@VPM.org.