

Proposed By-laws of the Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op (OCBC)

Mission and core values of the Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op:

The mission of the Ohio City Bicycle Co-op (OCBC, or "the co-op") is to [Help people use bicycles. The mission, as stated in the organizations incorporation filing is "To promote the use of bicycles in Greater Cleveland and engage area youth and adults in cycling activities that foster independence, resourcefulness, and good health. The OCBC works to accomplish this by offering safe cycling and bike repair education, Earn A Bike programs, and a consumer's cooperative bike shop; by providing dependable used bikes and accessories; and by producing cycling events and tours that impart skills while encouraging riding for fun, fitness and practical transportation. The Co-Op's core values are based on the "Three R's"](#)

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Respect: For the community and for others.

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Resourcefulness: The Co-Op promotes sustainability through recycling of materials.

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Reciprocity: The Co-Op operates on 'sweat equity;' members get as much out of the Co-Op as they put into it, and partner with regional organizations to work for the physical and economic health of the entire community.

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Written by Jim Sheehan
Tuesday, 13 July 2010 16:47 -

General Membership:

The Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op is a member-driven organization. Membership is voluntary and open to all those able to use the Co-Op's services. There are two basic classes of membership.

Supporting Membership is gained through a yearly donation of \$50.

Supporting membership includes various advantages to be determined by the Executive Director and subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

Regular Membership is gained by a contribution of \$100.00 or 20 hours of volunteer time, and attending, or testing out of, all the classes in the Maintenance Class series and Intro to Traffic Skills.

Regular Membership includes permanent subscription in the Maintenance Class series as well as various other advantages to be determined by the Executive Director and subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

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Group membership is available for organizations and corporations, with advantages to be determined by the Executive Director and subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

The Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op is a democratic organization, controlled by members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

Members are determined to be in good standing when they have contributed the requisite money or volunteer time in the yearly membership period. Membership privileges may be revoked for behavior in conflict with the organization's non-discrimination policy, after a warning by the executive director, by a 2/3 majority vote of the trustees.

Member Meetings:

Member Meetings shall be held on a regular schedule to be determined by the Board of Trustees. There shall be no fewer than six member meetings per year, scheduled every other month. The meetings shall be for the purpose of disseminating information, recruiting volunteers for upcoming events, voting on membership issues, and a general sharing of bike fellowship. The June Member Meeting will be considered an annual meeting for the purpose of the general membership having the opportunity to ratify changes to the board of Trustees and the Bylaws, and nominate trustees..

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Board of Trustees:

The Board of Trustees shall consist of 9 to 15 members and be comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as other members. Members should consist of no less than 1/3 being Co-Op Regular Members in good standing and no less than 1/3 drawn from the community at large, elected for their ability or expertise in areas deemed to be of relevant value to the Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op.

Elections to the Board:

Trustees shall be nominated by Nominating Committee and elected on an interim basis by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Trustees. Interim Trustees shall become permanent members of the Board upon election by a majority vote of the membership at the June membership meeting of the Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op. Board of Trustee members shall serve a two year term, commencing on a rotating schedule to maintain the stability of the Board.

Trustees may be removed from the Board for impropriety or lack of attendance if the removal is proposed by the President, seconded by the Vice-President and approved by a two-thirds majority of the Board.

(to be reviewed by the By-Laws Committee)

Board Meetings:

Board Meetings shall be held every other month, on the month following a Member Meeting. Emergency meetings of the Board may be called at the discretion of the President or

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Executive Director. Special meetings may be held without quorum and via e-mail. Board meeting dates will be tentatively scheduled at the beginning of each year. In order for the Board to effectively govern, Trustees are responsible for regularly attending meetings. Trustees that miss 2 scheduled meetings in a 12 month period may be asked to resign their position or may be removed by a vote of the Board (to be reviewed by the By-Laws Committee)

Committees:

Committees perform a vital role in the operation of the Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op and shall be created by a regular vote of the Trustees, and comprised of at least one trustee, and members of the organization. Members of the community at large may serve on a committee in an advisory role. The standing committees of the board include The Nominating Committee, and the Fund-Raising Committee.

Vacancies:

The Board of Trustees shall strive to fill any vacancies in the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer roles. If no qualified candidates are available, the Executive Director shall be responsible for performing or delegating those roles until such time as a qualified candidate can be found.

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Votes:

Votes at Board Meetings require a two-thirds majority of those present to pass. A Quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the Board, with a minimum of one of each kind of member.

By-laws:

By-laws may be amended by a [2/3](#) vote of the Trustees.

Staff:

Candidates will be interviewed by the Executive Director and may be hired after consultation with either the President of the board or the full board at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Executive Director:

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The Executive Director shall be responsible for and authorised to perform the daily management tasks of the Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op. The Executive Director must keep the Board of Trustees fully informed on matters affecting policy decisions and will work closely with the President to ensure that the Board has all relevant information.