



Policy: Public Comments - Update

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Authorized by: _____

Date: _____

Board Chair

References: Policies CAPRA 1.4.1

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POL.B.05.12 - Public Comment

Members of the public will be allowed to speak during the “Public Comments” portion of a Committee of the Whole or Regular Board meeting, unless the business or circumstances of the Board at a particular meeting precludes public comment. The general rule shall be that an individual shall have not more than three minutes to make his or her comments and that repetitive comments are discouraged. The Board may set, on a meeting-by-meeting basis, an overall limit on the number of, and time for, public comments if necessary, to facilitate the proper and orderly conduct of the meeting and the completion of the Board’s business.

Guidelines

- **The time limit for public comments is three (3) minutes per speaker.**
- **This is a public discussion, not a debate.** The purpose is *not* to win an argument, but to hear many points of view and explore many options and solutions.
- **Everyone is encouraged to participate.** You may be asked to share what you think, or we may ask for comments from those who haven't spoken. It is always OK to "pass" when you are asked to share a comment.
- **No one or two individuals should dominate a discussion.** If you have already voiced your ideas, let others have an opportunity. When you speak, be brief and to the point.
- **When you speak, state your name and where you live.** In a public meeting, it is helpful to know who is speaking as well as where they live in the community.
- **One person speaks at a time.** Refrain from side conversations. Pay attention to the person speaking. If you think you will forget an idea that comes to mind, write it down.
- **Listen to and respect other points of view.**
- **Do your best to understand the pros and cons of every option,** not just those you prefer. Be as objective and fair-minded as you can be.
- **Seek first to understand, not to be understood.** Ask questions to seek clarification when you don't understand the meaning of someone's comments.