

Wilmette Park District

Policy for Public Comment

The Board of Park Commissioners, in its regular or special meetings, is a deliberative body assembled to make decisions on new and pending matters affecting the District. Park Board and Committee meetings are meetings held in public, not a public meeting. The Board invites both oral and written communications from its residents.

To facilitate the conduct of Board/Committee meetings, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A section of each meeting will be set aside for public comment and will be noted on the agenda as "Recognition of Visitors."
2. During the "Recognition of Visitors" agenda item, audience members wishing to comment should raise their hands and will be permitted to speak once they are recognized by the President/Chairperson.
3. When recognized by the President/Chairperson, each audience member should identify themselves and limit speaking to no more than three (3) minutes, unless additional time is granted by the President/Chairperson. Each audience member will be permitted to speak only once. The President's/Chairperson's denial of or limitation on any request for an extension of time may be overruled by a majority of those Commissioners/Committee members present.
4. Questions are to be directed to the entire Board/Committee. Audience members are reminded that questions often require Board/Committee member or staff investigation or inquiry to obtain additional information before responding. As such, Board/Committee members may choose not to immediately respond to comments, and the issue instead may be referred to staff for additional consideration, or a Board/Committee member may pursue the issue at a future Board/Committee meeting. Lack of an immediate response to a question raised during public comment should not be interpreted as anything other than a commitment by the Board/Committee to take the issue under advisement for consideration and follow up or possible future action.
5. Park Board/Committee members may, by addressing the President/Chairperson, interrupt a presenter to obtain clarification and/or further information.
6. Personnel matters will not be addressed during "Recognition of Visitors."
7. During presentation and discussion of agenda items, the President/Chairperson will not recognize speakers in the audience unless the Board/Committee desires additional information from an audience member.
8. When addressing the Board/Committee, all persons permitted to speak shall confine their remarks to the matter at hand and avoid personal attacks, the impugning of motives, and merely contentious statements. If any person indulges in such remarks or otherwise engages in conduct injurious to the civil discourse of the Board/Committee and the meeting, the President/Chairperson may immediately terminate the opportunity to speak. This decision is at the discretion of the President/Chairperson or upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Park Board commissioners/Committee members present.
9. Any person, except a member of the Board, who engages in disorderly conduct during a meeting, may be ejected from the meeting upon motion passed by a majority of the Board/Committee members present.

Approved February 13, 2023