

Meeting Protocol and Rules of Decorum

In support of and respect for open, fair and informed decision-making process, the Board of the POA recognizes that:

- Civil, respectful and courteous discourse and behavior are conducive to the democratic and harmonious airing of concerns and decision making; and
- Uncivil discourse and/or discourteous and inappropriate behavior have a negative impact on the character and productivity of the decision-making process.
- In an effort to preserve the intent of open government and maintain a positive environment for citizen input and POA decision-making, the following Meeting Protocol and Rules of Decorum have been adopted.

Compliance with the meeting protocol is expected and appreciated. A printable version of the Meeting Protocol is available on the POA website. We encourage citizens to familiarize themselves with these protocols prior to offering public comment.

1. Public comment is encouraged and will continue to be listed as an agenda item at every regular POA board meeting. The public comment period will be held after staff reports and again at the end of the meeting.
2. The Chair will open public comment by announcing the allotted time provided for the comment period and for individual speakers. Each individual wishing to be heard during the public comment period will be given up to 3 minutes to make a comment.
3. Please give your name and address, and identify the item you will be addressing.
4. The public comment period will not be used to air personal grievances, nor to make political endorsements or for political campaign purposes. Speakers shall address all comments to the board chair and not to individual board members. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience shall not be allowed.
5. This time is for receipt of public comment, not debate. The Chair or other board members will not enter into a dialogue with citizens. Questions from the board members will be for clarification purposes only. Public comment will not be used as a time for problem solving or reacting to comments made but, rather, for hearing the citizens for informational purposes only.
6. The Board chair may assign the CEO to provide information requested by a speaker during the public comment period.
7. Anger, rudeness, ridicule, obscene or profane language, impatience and lack of respect for others and personal attacks are not acceptable behavior. Demonstrations in support or opposition to a speaker or idea are not permitted in the Board room. The board chair is responsible for maintaining order. Failure to abide by this requirement may result in the forfeiture of the speaker's right to speak. Upon three warnings from the chair, the offending member will be escorted from the board room.