

POLICY PERTAINING TO PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Right to Speak.** The Illinois Open Meetings Act, Section 2.06(g) provides that “Any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body.
- B. Public Comment.**
1. Persons desiring to address the Plan Commission/Chairman will do so during the two (2) Citizen Comment periods on the agenda of the Plan Commission Meeting. Citizen Comment on the initial period of the agenda shall be limited to commenting on items on that Meeting’s agenda. Citizen Comment at the end of the agenda shall be on any topic.
 2. Participation Procedure.
 - a. Persons wishing to speak may do so only after being recognized for that purpose by the Chairperson.
 - b. Only one (1) person may address the Plan Commission at a time.
 - c. Comments shall be limited to five (5) minutes per person and no longer than 30 minutes in total. Any person’s unused time may not be traded, utilized, ceded, or added to another person’s comment time.
 - d. The Plan Commission may, without creating precedent and in its sole discretions, expand the numbers of those permitted to speak, at any given meeting.
 3. Public Participation.
 - a. Persons addressing the Plan Commission shall identify themselves for the record, and for the Plan Commission and members of the public also attending the meeting.
 - b. Persons addressing the Plan Commission will offer all comments in a courteous and professional manner, and refrain from use of inappropriate, offensive or profane language.
 - c. The Plan Commission will not respond nor engage in debate or discussion relating to comments offered or made. The public comment period is intended to afford members of the public with an opportunity to express their views to the respective Plan Commission. The Plan Commission will generally take comments made to it by speakers under advisement.
- C. Misconduct.**
1. All persons addressing the Plan Commission must do so in a civil and appropriate manner. Rude or abusive behavior will not be condoned. Comments that are defamatory, or otherwise constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy will not be allowed. Persons in violation of the foregoing will be directed by the Chairperson of the meeting to cease commenting immediately or, should they refuse to do so, leave the meeting.
 2. Persons attending the meeting will refrain from comments, gestures, or other verbal or non-verbal communications when not recognized to offer public comment. The Chairperson is charged with enforcing orderly decorum at meetings to enable effective and efficient consideration by the Plan Commission of the stated and published purpose of the meeting; to that end the Chairperson will request person(s) causing disruptive conduct to cease such conduct.
 3. In the event public comment or behavior at the meeting becomes disruptive to the Plan Commission’s effective and efficient conduct of the meeting, the Chairperson may recess the meeting until such time that conditions are conducive to resume conduct of the business of the public body. If the disturbance is particularly egregious, the Chairperson may recess the meeting to reconvene at a designated time, date and place. The proposition by the Chairperson to recess or to recess and reconvene at a later time, date and place shall be approved by the Plan Commission. If taken, the decision to recess shall be recorded in the minutes, along with the vote of the Plan Commission and a statement as to the cause of the disruption necessitating the recess.