

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Public Hearing Rules of Conduct

Public Hearings are conducted for the purpose of giving the citizens of the county the opportunity to present testimony on the subdivision, conditional use, text amendment, and map amendment items before the Regional Planning Commission.

For public hearing items before the Commission:

1. The Chairman will introduce the application /ordinance.
2. The applicant or applicant's representative will be allotted 15 minutes to present the application unless a longer time limit is permitted at the discretion of the Chairman. Questions from Commissioners shall be withheld until the conclusion of the applicant's or representative's presentation.
3. The Commission will then receive public testimony from all of those in favor.
4. Public testimony will then be received from those who may be opposed.
5. All public testimony shall be sworn.
6. Each person providing testimony in support or opposition shall be allotted 5 minutes unless a longer time limit is permitted at the discretion of the Chairman. Questions from the Commission shall be withheld until the conclusion of said person's testimony.
7. A person in support or opposition may only testify once during a specific public hearing. Commissioners may at any time ask questions of a speaker, a member of the audience, or member of staff.
8. All those providing testimony shall publicly state their name and address for the record. Professionals testifying on behalf of an applicant or in support or opposition shall state the name of their company or employer and business address.
9. Copies of any written statements or exhibits used during the hearing should be presented for identification and inclusion in the record.
10. All parties to hearings, their counsel, and spectators shall conduct themselves in a proper manner. Disruptive demonstrations of any kind at hearings shall not be permitted. No signs, written material in support or opposition of any proceeding shall be permitted inside the Commission hearing room. Any disregard by parties, attorneys, or other persons of the rulings of the Chairman or Commission on matters of order or procedure shall be noted on the record. The Chairman may, at his or her discretion, recess or continue any hearing when the deportment of witnesses, spectators, news media, or other person unduly disrupts or interfered with the proper conduct of such hearing.
11. When everyone has had an opportunity to speak, the hearing on the item will be closed.
12. The record will remain open for 2 business days after the hearing.