

Ground Rules for July 23, 2013 Planning Board Public Hearing

Any person wishing to speak at the July 23, 2013 public hearing will be given an opportunity to do so in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Scope of the Public Hearing. The subject matter of this public hearing is the proposed waterfront protection ordinance that has been submitted to the City through the citizen initiative process. The proposed ordinance is in final form, and the Planning Board cannot make changes to it. The Planning Board's role tonight is limited to taking public input on the issue of the land use implications of the proposed ordinance and the proposed ordinance's consistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Planning Board will develop a recommendation to the City Council pursuant to Section 27-115(g) of the Zoning Ordinance. Evidence presented on issues other than the land use implications of the proposed ordinance or the proposed ordinance's consistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan will be considered beyond the scope of this public hearing and will be excluded.
2. Procedure. Persons wishing to address the Planning Board on the subject matter of the agenda item shall signify their desire to speak by raising their hands when the Chair announces consideration of such item. After being recognized to speak by the Chair, such persons will preface their comments by giving their first and last names and address. Speakers are asked to spell their last name so that the Recording Secretary can keep accurate meeting minutes.
3. Time Limit. Persons addressing the Board on the subject matter of the agenda item shall limit their remarks to five (5) minutes and may be allowed to speak more than once at the discretion of the Board. Any group of four or more wishing to address the Board may designate a spokesperson to represent their views and such spokesperson shall limit any remarks on behalf of the group to twenty (20) minutes; individual group members are still subject to the five (5) minute time limit.
4. Evidence. The Board may receive any oral or documentary evidence but such evidence is restricted to the subject matter of the agenda item. The Board shall exclude irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence.
5. Decorum. Persons present at the public hearing are requested not to applaud or otherwise express approval or disapproval of any statements made or action taken at such hearing. Citizens shall refrain from interrupting other speakers. Citizens shall avoid personalities and conduct themselves in a civil, courteous manner expected of all meeting participants.
6. Questions. Speakers should address questions through the Chair. Speakers shall not attempt to engage in debate with other meeting participants.