



CELEBRATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

PUBLIC SPEAKING POLICY

Adopted: January 25, 2022

INTRODUCTION

It is the desire of the Board of Supervisors (“Board”) of the Celebration Community Development District (“CDD” or “District”) to implement a public speaking policy that will comply with applicable law, foster communication between the residents and the Board and facilitate more effective Board meetings.

PURPOSE OF A PUBLIC SPEAKING POLICY

Meetings of the Board are open to any member of the public. However, we ask that you keep in mind that it is a business meeting of the Board members to discuss issues, make decisions, and have conversations that they cannot have outside of a publicly noticed meeting to which the public is invited.

The purpose of these meetings is for the Board to conduct business; however, in the course of business, residents and members of the public have valuable and applicable comments relating to these meetings and issues that the Board faces. In order to facilitate this communication between the Board and the public, it is necessary to set forth a policy related to members of the public speaking during any portion of the meeting.

GENERAL INFORMATION

As a courtesy to others, please turn your cell phones and/or pagers to vibrate or silent mode during the meeting. These meetings are recorded and videotaped. Your cooperation in this regard will allow everyone to hear all of the meeting discussion.

The Board is very interested in hearing comments from its citizens and encourages participation in meetings, at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner. We ask that each person who speaks at a meeting be courteous and respectful, speaking only when recognized by the District’s Chairperson, his or her designee, or such other person conducting a District meeting (“Presiding Officer”), and yielding the floor when requested by the Presiding Officer, District Manager, District Attorney, or other Board member.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, any person requiring special accommodations because of a disability or physical impairment to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the District Office, 610 Sycamore Street, Suite 140, Celebration, Florida 34747, 407-566-1935, at least two (2) business days in advance of the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 800-955-8770 for aid in contacting the District Office at least two (2) days prior to the date of the meeting.

DESIGNATING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS. The Presiding Officer, shall ensure that there are at least two periods of time (each a “Public Comment Period”) in the District’s meeting agenda whereby the public has an opportunity to be heard on propositions before the Board, as well as any other general matters relating to District business, as follows:

- a) An initial Public Comment Period shall be provided at the start of each Board meeting prior to consideration of any propositions by the Board, and shall be limited to items which appear on the agenda or are otherwise scheduled to be considered by the Board during such meeting (the “Initial Comment Period”). In the event that, during the course of the meeting, there are propositions that come before the Board that are not listed on the agenda, the Presiding Officer shall announce an additional Public Comment Period on such proposition prior to the Board voting on the matter.
- b) During the Initial Comment Period, speakers shall be permitted to address any agenda item (but not non-agenda matters, which may be addressed as indicated herein) of personal or general concern.
- c) Prior to the close of the meeting, an additional Public Comment Period shall be held in order to allow speakers to address any non-agenda item of personal or general concern (the “General Comment Period”).
- d) Individuals wishing to make a public comment, whether during the Initial Comment Period, the General Comment Period, or any other Public Comment Period, are limited to three (3) minutes per person. Potential speakers may not assign his/her three (3) minutes to extend another speaker’s time (without prior board approval); however no speaker may be assigned more than 1 additional three minute period. Any board member may extend a speaker’s initial three (3) minute speaking time by one additional three (3) minute period.
- e) The Presiding Officer may extend or reduce the time periods set forth herein in order to facilitate orderly and efficient District business, provided however that a reasonable opportunity for public comment shall be provided consistent with the requirements of Section 286.0114, Florida Statutes. The Presiding Officer may also elect to set and announce additional Public Comment Periods if he or she deems it appropriate.

DESIGNATING A PROCEDURE TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO BE HEARD.

Unless otherwise directed and declared by the Presiding Officer, individuals seeking to be heard on agenda items or propositions before the Board during the Initial Comment Period shall complete speaker request cards that include the individual’s name, address, the proposition on which they wish to be heard, the individual’s position on the proposition (i.e., “for,” “against,” or “undecided”), and if appropriate, to indicate the designation of a representative to speak for the individual or the individual’s group. Alternatively, during any other Public Comment Period, or in the event that public attendance is low, and/or if otherwise in the best interests of the District in order to facilitate efficient and orderly District business, the Presiding Officer may allow individuals to identify themselves by a show of hands at the beginning of each Public Comment Period, as announced by the Presiding Officer. In the event large groups of individuals desire to speak, the Presiding Officer may require each group to designate a representative to speak on behalf of such group.

Speaker request cards should be completed and given to the Manager prior to the start of the meeting. These forms are available online for your convenience in advance of the meeting. They are also available next to the agendas in the back of the meeting room

Sections 1 and 2 herein shall be deemed to apply only to District Board meetings, but the Presiding Officer of a District workshop in his or her discretion may elect to apply such Sections to District workshops.

PUBLIC DECORUM The following policies govern public decorum at public meetings and workshops:

1. Each person addressing the Board shall proceed to the place assigned for speaking, and should state his or her name and address in an audible tone of voice for the public record.
2. All remarks shall be relevant to the matter at hand, and shall be addressed to the Board as a body and not to any member thereof or to any staff member. The Presiding Officer shall rule as to the relevancy of any remarks, as appropriate. No person other than a Board Supervisor or District staff member shall be permitted to enter into any discussion with an individual speaker while he or she has the floor, without the permission of the Presiding Officer.
3. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the Presiding Officer from maintaining orderly conduct and proper decorum in a public meeting. Speakers shall refrain from disruptive behavior, and from making profane, vulgar, intimidating, or threatening remarks. Speakers shall refrain from launching personal attacks against any Board Supervisor, District staff member, or member of the public. If any speaker, after a verbal warning from the Presiding Officer against such behavior, continues to disregard these policies, the Presiding Office, District Manager and District Counsel shall have the discretion to expel such speaker from the meeting in accordance with the process set forth herein. Persons in the audience shall also refrain from behavior which may disrupt the meeting. This will include loud noises, verbal outbursts, clapping, shouting, heckling, booing, hissing or engaging in any other activity in a manner that disturbs, disrupts or impedes the orderly conduct of meeting.
4. In the case that any person, whether a speaker or audience member, is declared out of order by the Presiding Officer and ordered expelled, and does not immediately leave the meeting facilities, the following steps may be taken:
 - a. The Presiding Officer may declare a recess.
 - b. The Presiding Officer may contact the local law enforcement authority.
 - c. In case the person still refuses to remove himself or herself from the meeting, the Presiding Officer may request that he or she be placed under arrest by local law enforcement authorities for violation of Section 871.01, Florida Statutes, or other applicable law.

OTHER POLICY ELEMENTS

1. Board Action: At the Board's discretion, any issue can be placed on the agenda for formal action at a later date or later on the same agenda.
2. Public Comments: The public is welcome to make comments at the appropriate times during the meeting, in conjunction with the other elements and instructions listed in this Policy. This is a forum for allowing the public to comment on District business; it is not a debate or question and answer session. Many residents find it helpful to write their comments before speaking to ensure the most valuable use of their three minutes. The Board may choose at its sole discretion to further discuss an item among its members, but that is not an open forum for the public to join.

EXCEPTIONS. The Board recognizes there are exceptions to public comment requirements and may apply all applicable exceptions to Section 286.0114, including those set forth in Section 286.0114(3) and other applicable law. Additionally, the Presiding Officer may alter the procedures set forth in this Public Comment Policy for public hearings and other special proceedings that may require a different procedure under Florida law.

Examples of such exceptions are:

- (a) An official act that must be taken to deal with an emergency situation affecting the public health, welfare, or safety, if compliance with the requirements would cause an unreasonable delay in the ability of the board or commission to act;
- (b) An official act involving no more than a ministerial act, including, but not limited to, approval of minutes and ceremonial proclamations;
- (c) A meeting that is exempt from s. 286.011; or
- (d) A meeting during which the board or commission is acting in a quasi-judicial capacity. This paragraph does not affect the right of a person to be heard as otherwise provided by law.

EFFECTIVE DATE; PRIOR POLICY SUPERSEDED. This Resolution adopted and effective on January 25, 2022. Furthermore, upon its passage this Resolution shall supersede any Public Comment Policy previously adopted by the District.