



Carbon County Library System

Public Comment Protocols

The Carbon County Library System welcomes freedom of expression and Library Board meetings are open to the public, however, they are not meetings of the public. In most circumstances, members of the public can attend our meetings; however, neither the Wyoming Open Meeting law nor the First Amendment grant the public a right to speak at these meetings.

The following protocols are to be followed with respect to public comment during the CCLS Board of Directors meetings:

- a. All comments are expected to be respectful and directed to the board as a whole, rather than individual members.
- b. No inappropriate comments or behavior will be tolerated. Inappropriate behavior is defined as attempting to engage individual board members in conversation, insults, obscenities or profanity, attacks against any person in their personal capacity, and/or physical violence or threat thereof.
- c. Speakers are limited to three minutes for presentation of their comment. Speakers may not concede or yield their time to another individual.
- d. The Chairperson or Board members will not enter into a dialogue with speakers. Presentations are for the receipt of information, not debate. Questions from the Board will be for clarification purposes.
- e. Demonstrations in support or opposition to a speaker or idea are not permitted in the meeting. Any inappropriate conduct, whether verbal or behavioral, including failing to cease speaking upon expiration of time, may be addressed as follows:
 1. A point of order made be made by any member of the Board; and/or
 2. The Chairperson may rule the speaker out of order;
 3. A speaker who is out of order and thereafter refuses to immediately conform their behavior to library policy forfeits the right to address the Board, and the Board will proceed to make a final determination on the matter.

4. Any further disruption by a speaker or gross violations of library policy at any time, may result in the speaker being asked to leave the premises;
5. If the speaker fails to immediately leave or the inappropriate conduct continues, the speaker may be removed pursuant to Wyoming Statutes §16-4-406, §6-6-303 and §6-6-306;
6. Speakers who are asked to leave shall not be permitted to present comments to the board for six months thereafter;
7. Pursuant to Wyoming Statute §16-4-406, if order cannot be reestablished following the removal of an offending speaker or persons willfully disrupting the meeting, the Board may entertain a motion to recess the meeting and reconvene at another named location or to end public comment and adjourn the meeting.

The Board may reconvene at the named location and may refuse to allow any member of the public who participated in the prior disruption to enter the room.