

Board of Trustees – Public Comment at Library Board Meetings

All regular and special library board meetings are conducted in compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, and are therefore open to the public. The Dominy Memorial Library Board of Trustees welcomes public comments from the public in attendance at board meetings. At each regular and special open meeting, members of the public and library employees may comment on or ask questions of the board, subject to reasonable constraints. The individuals appearing before the board are expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Individuals are to only address the board at the appropriate times as indicated on the agenda, when recognized by the board president, and by supplying their full name.
2. Comments will be limited to a single five minute time period per individual, per meeting. The secretary will monitor the allotted time as the board has the right and responsibility to maintain its agenda. In unusual circumstances, and when the person has given advance notice of the need to speak for a longer period of time, such person may be allowed to speak for more than five minutes.
 - a. The board president may shorten or lengthen a person's opportunity to speak. The president may also deny the opportunity to speak to a person who has previously addressed the board on the same subject within the last two months.
 - b. No more than 20 minutes shall be allowed to each subject matter under discussion, except with unanimous consent of the board.
3. All public comments shall be addressed to the board as a whole. No comments shall be addressed to individual members of the board, library staff, or other members of the public, and all comments should be in good taste. The presiding officer has the authority to direct the speaker to sit down or leave the meeting if he or she feels the speaker exceeds the time limitations set forth in this policy or becomes abusive in language or behavior.
4. Petitions or written correspondence to the board shall be presented to the board at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.
5. The board may or may not be able to respond at the meeting to all questions, requests for information, or requests for action. The request will be noted and the board will respond after it has had an opportunity to consider and/or investigate the request.
6. The board president shall have the authority to determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise defined in board policy.