Isle of Wight County Planning Commission

Public Comment Policy

The Isle of Wight County Planning Commission welcomes public input as an essential part of the decision-making process. This policy outlines the guidelines for providing public comment during Planning Commission meetings.

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1. Purpose

Public comments allow residents, property owners, and stakeholders the opportunity to express concerns, opinions, or support related to land use planning, zoning, and development matters within Isle of Wight County.

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2. Public Comment Opportunities

The Planning Commission provides two types of opportunities for public input:

A. Public Hearings

- Public hearings are held on specific matters such as rezonings, conditional use permits, ordinance amendments, and comprehensive plan updates.
- Anyone may speak during a public hearing after being recognized by the Chair.

B. Citizens' Comments

- A period for general citizen comments is provided near the beginning of each regular meeting.
- Comments should relate to matters **within the Commission's authority** that are **not on that meeting's agenda**.

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3. Registration to Speak

- There is no formal registration required to speak at a Planning Commission meeting. Citizens are welcome to come forward and speak at the appropriate time. The Chairman will announce when the floor is open for citizen comments or when a public hearing is underway, at which point individuals may approach the podium to offer their remarks regarding the application under consideration.

- Speakers must provide their name and address before beginning their comments.
- Written comments may be submitted in advance to the Department of Planning and Zoning for inclusion in the official public record. Please note that letters sent individually to Planning Commissioners will **not** be included in the meeting minutes.

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4. Time Limits

- Each speaker is limited to **5 minutes per comment period**.
- Time limits may be adjusted by the Chair depending on the number of speakers or meeting length.

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5. Rules of Decorum

- Comments must be directed to the **Planning Commission as a whole**, not to individual members, staff, or the audience.
- All speakers must maintain a respectful tone and refrain from:
    - Personal attacks
    - Profanity or vulgar language
    - Disruptive behavior
- The Chair reserves the right to issue warnings, terminate comments, or remove individuals who violate these rules.

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6. Commission Response

- The Commission **does not respond to public comments during the meeting** unless clarification is necessary.
- Commissioners may direct staff to follow up on a comment or schedule further discussion at a future meeting.
