

Sioux City Public Library Policy

Public Comment at Library Board Meetings

Board Approved: August 14, 2019

Library Mission: Creating opportunities for a lifetime of learning to empower and enrich our community.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, June 2016

All meetings of the Sioux City Public Library Board are open to members of the public. The Board welcomes the attendance of community members. The time for public comment is not a time for discussion between the public and the Board but as an opportunity for the public to offer comments for the Board's consideration at the appropriate time. No formal or official action may be taken at this time on individual comments in keeping with the notice requirements pursuant to Chapter 21.5 of *The Code of Iowa*.

Any persons desiring to address the Board on an issue not on the Agenda shall appear at the end of regular Board Meeting and be recognized by the presiding officer.

Any citizen wishing to address the Board is required to sign-in before the meeting starts and the speaker must sign-up by writing their name, address, as well as a brief description of the matter upon which they wish to speak. Speaking time is limited to three minutes per person and the total time given to public comment shall not typically exceed 30 minutes. All remarks shall be addressed to the Board of Trustees as a body and not to any Trustee specifically.

If the Board of Trustees chooses to act on a citizen's request, they can:

- 1) Give administrative direction to the Library Director to resolve the matter.
- 2) Defer official action to the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting.
- 3) Waive the rules and add an item to the Agenda for official Board of Trustees action. This method will not be used unless the Board deems the matter to be an emergency.

Public comments must be relevant to the operation of the Library. The President/Chairperson shall rule on the relevancy of public comments. Behavior that is abusive, personal, impertinent, irrelevant, loud, threatening, slanderous or profane remarks shall not be allowed. Persons not following this policy may be asked to leave the meeting.

The Sioux City Public Library Board of Trustees will not allow or entertain public comment or discussion of personnel matter or other matters subject to the Iowa Public Employees Relation Act.