



Frequently Asked Questions

This list of *Frequently Asked Questions* is designed to provide information about the Itasca Plan Commission's Public Hearing Process regarding Haymarket's petition to convert the Holiday Inn – Itasca property into a residential treatment and recovery home facility for persons 18 years and older receiving treatment for substance use and mental health disorders.

The upcoming Plan Commission hearing regarding Haymarket's Petition is a legal process by which the Commission will seek to gather evidence about the Petitioner's proposal. The proceedings, the types of evidence that can be presented, and the nature of questions that can be asked are established in both law and policy.

In addition to this document, all individuals interesting in attending the public hearing are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to review the Public Hearing Rules of Decorum and Itasca's Step-by-Step Guide to the Public Hearing Process prior to attending a Public Hearing.

Q: How long will the Plan Commission process take?

A: The length of Plan Commission deliberations vary from petition to petition. A petition that generates significant public interest often requires more than one hearing date to present all of the testimony.

Q: How long will the Plan Commission Hearing be?

A: Evening public hearings generally run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. In order to ensure every resident question is heard, the public hearing may be continued to future dates until all interested citizens have an opportunity to be heard.

Q: Can I submit written testimony?

A: By law, the Petitioner has a right cross examine the testimony from all witnesses, therefore the Plan Commission can only consider testimony from an individual when it is presented to them in person. The Plan Commission is provided all written comments received, however, these comments do not carry the same weight during Plan Commission deliberations as actual testimony.

Q: Will residents have the ability to provide public comments about the proposal?

A: Public Comment is toward the end of the hearing process. Please see Itasca's Step-by-Step Guide for further information.

Q: Will residents have the ability to ask questions of witnesses at the hearing?

A: Yes. Please see Itasca's Step-by-Step Guide to the Public Hearing Process.

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Q: What type of questions am I allowed to ask?

A: It is important to note that questioning a witness is not a person's public testimony; it is a chance to question the witness on the information they presented. A person can ask any type of question that is **directly related** to the witness testimony. In other words, a person can **only** question the witness on what they have testified about. Any questions not related to the witness testimony may be ruled by the Plan Commission Chair as "Out of the Purview." This means that while a person's question may be important to the individual, it cannot be answered by the witness because it falls outside of what is **legally allowed** at the hearing.

Q: Will I get to present information I want the Plan Commission to consider?

A: Yes. Using the public hearing process outline, identify which group you belong to. When it is time for that group, you will have an opportunity to present information to the Plan Commission.

Q: What type of information am I allowed to present?

A: Anyone is allowed to present any information he/she believes the Plan Commission may consider relevant to the petitioner's application.

Q: Can I have someone speak on my behalf?

A: Yes, individuals can choose to have a spokesperson to speak on behalf of a group of individuals.

Q: Is the Plan Commission's decision final?

A: No. The Village Board will be the final authority on whether or not the petition is approved or denied.

Q: When will the Village Board vote on this Haymarket petition?

A: The Village Board will not begin its consideration of this petition until the Plan Commission has made its recommendation. The Village Board review the Plan Commission recommendation at a Committee of the Whole meeting before moving the item to a Village Board meeting for a final vote.

Q: Can I just wait to testify at the Village Board meeting?

A: No, while residents have the ability to comment at Village Board meetings, the law provides that the Plan Commission is the authority that conducts the public hearing, where evidence may be submitted and the record is created.

Q: I can't come to the Plan Commission meeting, how can I find out what happened?

A: The Village will broadcast all Haymarket Public Hearings live online and will make a copy available online after the meeting. Check the Village's Haymarket Information Page at www.itasca.com for details.

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