



Rules of Decorum

A Plan Commission public hearing is a legal proceeding. The Rules of Decorum for this hearing are similar to a court of law. Any person who violates these rules will be required to leave the public hearing.

- The following conduct is strictly prohibited during the public hearing:
 - Noisy outbursts or other distracting actions such as applauding, cheering or booing.
 - Intimidation, personal attacks or insulting someone's character and/or integrity;
 - Obscene language, lewd acts or disorderly conduct; and
- Members of the audience shall refrain from talking during the proceedings.
- All electronic devices shall be silenced during the proceedings.
- Please refrain from eating or drinking during the proceedings.
- Attendees will only be allowed to bring one small personal item, such as a purse, bag or briefcase, into the public hearing. Signs, banners, posters, flags, photo boards, etc. are prohibited. Persons wishing to submit a printed handout to be considered by the Plan Commission should bring no less than 12 copies.
- Those needing to leave the meeting for any reason shall do so in a manner which minimizes noise or disruption.
- There shall be no comments made from the audience during the proceeding.
- All members of the public wishing to speak should thoroughly review the Frequently Asked Questions and the Step-by-Step Guide to the Haymarket Public Hearing Process to determine the most appropriate time to ask a specific question or provide comment. General comments and statements by individuals will be allowed toward the end of the public hearing process.
- All members of the public who wish to speak shall first wait until the appropriate time during the proceedings, then line up in the middle aisle. Immediately prior to making a comment, all speakers will be required to sign in. When prompted to address the Chairperson, persons must first state one's name and address for the public record.
- Members of the public wishing to ask a question of a witness shall only ask questions directly related to the witness's testimony or expertise. All questions from the public should be directed to the Plan Commission Chairperson.
- Attorneys representing entities or objectors shall inform the Chair of their participation in the public hearing. Attorneys shall state on the record their name and the entity or objector(s) they represent. Cross examination shall be guided by the principals of due process and by the general application of the federal and state Rules of Evidence, where applicable. The attorney for the Plan Commission will rule on any evidentiary objections.
- Once a witness has been excused by the Plan Commission Chairperson, there shall be no further questions for that witness, unless the Plan Commission recalls the witness.