

Planning Commission Public Hearing Procedures

- 1) Prior to the first public hearing, the Planning Commission Chair will briefly explain the public hearing process and the steps the Commission will take in making their decisions on applications. Commission members, any member of the public, the applicant and staff should endeavor at all times to be respectful and understanding of one another during this entire public hearing.
- 2) For each application, the Chair will first declare the public hearing to be open and then request the applicant to come forward and state their name.
- 3) Next, the Chair will call on the Environmental Services Department staff to give a summary of the application and provide pertinent information regarding the property and the applicant's request. Following the summary, the Chair will allow the applicant an opportunity to add any additional information in regards to the request.
- 4) The next step will be for the Chair to allow members of the public to state their position in regard to the application. Speakers should first state their name for the record. Comments should be limited to issues directly related to the request and be presented in a manner that is respectful to the Commission, the applicant, staff and others present at the hearing. If an item is particularly controversial and entails considerable discussion, the Chair may ask that positions not be repeated and that only new information be presented. If the public has questions of the applicant or staff, those questions must be directed through the Chair in order to maintain order and provide proper protocol for the meeting. At anytime the Commission may ask questions of the applicant, staff, or the public.
- 5) Following the conclusion of all public testimony, the Chair will call for a motion to close the public hearing. Once the public hearing is closed, only the Commission members may ask clarifying questions of the applicant or staff. During this time, the applicant and/or the public may not make any further comments or testimony unless directed to do so by the Chair. This is an opportunity for the Commission to discuss the request and testimony among themselves and begin to frame their individual positions on the merits of the application.
- 6) Once it appears that all issues have been discussed and questions have been asked by the Commission members, the Chair will direct the Commission members to proceed with making their Findings of Fact. This is a formal process in which the Chair will read through a series of questions aimed at determining whether or not the request and testimony presented meet the intent of the comprehensive plan and all applicable ordinance requirements. Following the completion of the Findings of Fact, the Chair will call for a motion in support of or in denial of the request. The motion passed must be supported by the evidence in the Commission's Findings of Fact. For conditional use permits and interim use permits, the motion made by the Commission will be to grant or deny the request. For plats and rezoning applications, the motion made by the Commission will be a recommendation of approval or denial to the County Board of Commissioners. At a later date, the County Board of Commissioners will make the final decision on these requests.
- 7) Applicants for a conditional use permit, interim use permit, rezoning, or plat will receive written notice of the Commission's decision within one week of the public hearing