

# Public Participation Policy



Scope of Policy			
<i>Scope:</i>	Public Participation in Library Board Meetings	<i>Effective Date:</i>	Reviewed 6/14/2021

General Policy/Purpose
<p>There is an opportunity at every Board meeting for public comment. The visitor will be recognized and introduced by the President during the public comment period. After recognition by the President, the visitor will state name, address, and group affiliation (if applicable), and speak for a maximum of five minutes.</p> <p>The Board will not take immediate action on issues raised during the public comment portion of the meeting agenda. However, the Board may ask questions for clarification. If a response or action is needed, it will come after the Board has had time to deliberate the issue or seek additional information.</p> <p>It is important to note that a Library Board meeting is a meeting conducted in public, not a public meeting. In other words, the public, and possibly media representatives, are there to watch the Board work, not to participate in the Board meeting. There will be separate seating available for visitors.</p> <p>All meetings shall be held in open session unless closed sessions are held as expressly permitted by State law. (Code of Iowa, Sec. 21.3). The public cannot attend closed sessions. A closed session may be held only by affirmative vote of either two-thirds of the body or all of the members present at the meeting and in accordance with chapter 21 of the Code of Iowa. (Code of Iowa, Sec. 21.5).</p>