

Tides West Association Member Participation Policy

Meeting Conduct and Order of Business

The board will follow the posted agenda in conducting board meetings. However, either the President or a board member may request additions or changes to the prepared Agenda.

Public Attendance and Comment

Any member of the Tides West Community Association may attend board meetings either in person or by Zoom. The board recognizes the value of public comment on Association issues and the importance of involving members in its meetings. In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, except for emergency situations, the board will provide a period at or before every regular meeting for public comment.

Members may submit questions, comments, and suggestions on any topic at any time using the Tides West Association web page. The whole board will see the posts and will either respond directly to the member and/or place the item on the agenda for discussion at the next board meeting. This medium may also be used to request that particular items be included in the agenda for the next board meeting.

At the beginning of regular board meetings there will be an opportunity for public comment from members in attendance either in person or by Zoom. During public comment period, members may address the board on any topic which is on the agenda and that falls within the scope of the board's responsibility. Comments must make a specific point and adhere to the standards of civility discussed below.

The board will allow three to five minutes per speaker at the beginning of the meeting. Any structure the board imposes will be content neutral. There will also be a brief time for public comment at the end of the meeting. The secretary will have the option of including comments and speakers in the official minutes of the meeting. Individuals will identify themselves and proceed to make comments within the time limits established by the board.

The board is not obligated to respond to questions or challenges made during the public comment period and the board's silence will not signal agreement, endorsement of, or disagreement with the speaker's remarks. The board may control the time, place, and manner of public comment.

The President may terminate an individual's statement when the allotted time has passed and may interrupt a speaker to require the same standard of civility that the board imposes on itself.

Examples of uncivil comments include but are not necessarily limited to comments that:

- Are libelous or slanderous
- Are an unwarranted invasion of privacy
- Are obscene or indecent
- Constitute harassment, intimidation, bullying, or discrimination;
- Create a material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the board meeting

The board has the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings and will exercise its authority to maintain order.

In addition to the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting, the board may identify the agenda items that require or would benefit from opportunity for public comment and provide those opportunities as part of the meeting agenda before taking final action.