

Public Comment Policy- Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library

The purpose of public comment is to provide an opportunity for input by the community to the Board during a regular Board of Trustee meeting. If a community member has questions or needs to discuss an issue, then this is not the time to do so. Instead, use the contact us page at www.alpenalibrary.org to direct questions/issues.

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at public meetings and publish rules to govern such participation. The presiding officer of each meeting shall administer the rules of conduct, as stated:

1. Public participation shall be permitted at a time as determined by the presiding officer. Members of the public will be asked to sign in as attendees at the meeting.
2. Anyone with concerns related to the operation of the County Library or to matters within the authority of the Board may participate in the public comment portion of the meeting.
3. Participants will be recognized by the presiding officer and must announce their name, county/township of residency, and group affiliation (when appropriate).
4. Each statement made by a participant is limited to 3 minutes duration per person. Time can not be exchanged between participants.
5. The Board encourages polite and civil discourse and discourages disruptive behavior such as booing, hissing, clapping while a participant is speaking.
6. A participant shall not speak more than once on the same topic unless all others wishing to speak on that topic have been heard.
7. Participants shall direct all comments to the Board's presiding officer, not to staff or other participants.
8. Public comments should not be frivolous, repetitive, or abusive. This includes non verbal communication such as inappropriate hand gestures.
9. Participants may hand out copies of their public comment to the board members.

The presiding officer may interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.

The presiding officer may ask an individual to leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive of the orderly conduct of the meeting.

The presiding officer may call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when a lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such actions.