

Public Comment

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to encourage public input from the broader library community on library related subjects.

Policy and Procedure:

- Thirty minutes will be allowed at the beginning of a monthly Board meeting for public comment. At the conclusion of the meeting 15 minutes will be allowed for public comment. Individual participation is limited to three (3) minutes. The Board may, at its discretion, allow a speaker to exceed the three-minute limit if there is no one else waiting to speak and the total time allotted for public comment has not elapsed.
- Speakers are encouraged but not required to share their name if they so wish and if representing a group, the name of the group.
- Residency is not required.
- Speakers may comment on only library-related subjects. The Board does not allow discussion of matters irrelevant to library business. If a special meeting is held for public comment outside of the monthly Board meetings, comments may be limited to the advertised subject of the special meeting.
- Speech that is not protected by the First Amendment, including, but not limited to, copyright violations, obscenity, child pornography, defamatory or libelous comments, incitement to imminent lawlessness, and true threats, are not permitted during public comment. If a speaker violates this Policy, the Board President shall declare the speaker out of order and refuse them permission to continue to address the Board.
- Public comments will be included, in whole or in summary, in the minutes.

Board Response: As a matter of practice, the Board does not immediately respond to public comments. If the Board determines that a public comment requires follow up, action may be taken in a variety of ways, as deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to: direct communication with the commenter; research or investigation by individual Board members; delegation of a question or issue to the Library Director; delegation of a question or issue to a Board Committee; or placement on a future Board agenda.

Disclaimer: The Library is not responsible or liable for the speech of third parties during public comment, and such public comments do not reflect the opinions or positions of the Guilderland Public Library, its employees, or its Board of Trustees. The Board's decision not to respond to specific comments should not be construed as agreement with or commentary on the views expressed.

Approved: April 15, 2021

Revised: November 21, 2024