

Exhibit to Agenda Item #12

Discuss Board meeting schedule and potential amendments to the Emergency Board Meeting Procedures to include additional options for public participation.

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 2020, scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m.

Leave a voicemail

Description

- A dedicated phone number would be available for the public to call and record their comments ahead of the Board/Committee meetings.
- The phone number would be publicized in advance with the agenda. A deadline would be established for voicemail comments.
- The voicemail greeting would request i) name, ii) meeting date, iii) agenda item #, and iv) brief comment.
- Voicemails would be available as sound files (.wav), which would allow the files to be screened and then either played back during the Board/Committee meeting and/or included in the record.

Pros

- The public would be able to call in at its convenience at any time before the meeting.
- The President/Chair would know in advance the number of speaker requests in order to determine time allotment/length of meeting.

Cons

- Number of voicemails could be excessive or repetitive.
- If President/Chair decides to reduce the time allotted for each speaker due to high number of comments provided, some comments may be cut off mid-stream.
- No ability to caution speaker if he/she uses inflammatory or offensive language or comments begin to stray from items under discussion.

Speak live (register via e-mail)

Description

- The public could submit an e-mail to PublicComment@smud.org with a request to speak (name and topic). The public would also be able to request to speak during the live meeting, during the standard time period the agenda item is being discussed.
- Individuals would be invited to speak as a Zoom attendee during the Board/Committee meeting.
- An Information Technology facilitator would turn on audio only for the specific attendees when it is their time to speak.
- An animated PowerPoint timer slide for speakers would allow the Board to know when time for public comment has expired.

Pros

- Most closely aligns with in-person meetings.
- Pre-registration would allow for greater insight into the amount of speaker requests for any given topic, which allows for increased ability to ensure efficient public comment.
- Allows President/Chair to caution speaker if he/she begins to engage in disruptive speech or strays away from agenda item under consideration.

Cons

- Allows for meeting to be disrupted by inappropriate speech (e.g., hate speech) before speaker could be cut off.
- Requires communication and awareness that an e-mail is required to request to speak, as opposed to a Zoom Q&A request from within the meeting directly, which might be a more modern technology expectation.

Speak live (live on-demand through Q&A)

Description

- Through the Zoom Q&A function, someone from the public connected as a Zoom attendee could request the opportunity to make a public comment.
- An Information Technology facilitator would enable audio-only for the attendee when appropriate and when cued by the President/Chair.
- An animated PowerPoint timer slide for speakers would allow the Board to know when time for public comment has expired.

Pros

- Allows public attendees to react to live meeting content.

Cons

- It may be difficult to determine the amount of speakers on any given topic in advance. As a result, it may be difficult for the President/Chair to manage public comment efficiently.
- Allows for meeting to be disrupted by inappropriate speech (e.g., hate speech) before speaker could be cut off.
- Would need to ensure that public understands that the public may use the Q&A feature to request to speak during the public comment period but that it is not a forum to engage in a question and answer period with Board members.

Other Considerations

Other options for public comment on agenda items

- Continue to accept e-mail comments on items on the agenda and place them in the record?
- Discontinue practice of reading e-mail comments on agenda items into the record?

Other options for public comment on non-agenda items

- Retain current practice of accepting comments by e-mail for non-agenda items; include them in meeting minutes without reading them into the record.
- Allow public comment on non-agenda items in same manner as agenda items.