



Citizen Speak Policy

Adopted: 3/4/2022

Citizen Speak is the opportunity for citizens and residents to express their views to the Wellesley Housing Authority Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction. As a body, the WHA Board welcomes and encourages engagement from citizens and residents at public meetings.

During Citizen's Speak, participants can expect an opportunity to share their statements without interruption, as long as the manner of speech is within WHA Board meeting guidelines. Citizen Speak will not include a dialog with Commissioners and there will be no comments from Commissioners during Citizen Speak because WHA Commissioners cannot engage in topics with citizens that are not on the agenda. If a speaker wishes to have further discussion, information or comments, the board will take notes and make every effort to respond to the individual after the meeting.

If a speaker is addressing an item on the agenda, the board will not engage in a dialog, and the speaker must still adhere to all WHA meeting guidelines.

The following are the procedures for anyone interested in speaking:

- Speaker must state your full name and address before addressing the Board
- Speaker must speak as an individual or as a representative of a group. If the speaker is representing a group, please indicate the group by name, and state the nature of your involvement.
- The time limit will be 3 minutes for each speaker. Requests for more time may be made before the meeting to the Board Chair. These requests must be in writing or by email.
- Citizens Speak at Board meetings will be determined by how many people wish to speak but will not exceed 15 minutes (unless commissioners vote to extend it on a meeting by meeting basis)
- All remarks will be addressed to the Chair
- All remarks must be addressed appropriately, and must avoid insulting or inflammatory language
- Notes will be taken of the content of Citizen Speak with responses provided at a later date (if necessary)
- Written comments/ letters may also be submitted to the Commissioners
- Speakers who need assistance contributing comments can notify the board prior to the meeting and request the ADA representative for our area, if that is applicable.