



Public Comment Policy

Adopted:

Public Comment/Citizen Speak is an opportunity for citizens and residents of the Wellesley Housing Authority to share information, concerns, and opinions with the Wellesley Housing Authority Board (WHA) on matters within the Board's jurisdiction. As a body, the WHA Board welcomes and encourages public comment from citizens and residents at public meetings.

In order to give those wishing to comment a fair opportunity to speak, ensure compliance with the Open Meeting Law, and avoid disruption of its meetings the WHA Board adopted the following policy for Citizens Speak at its meetings.

1. Citizen 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 on a meeting-by-meeting basis)
2. 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 via email.
3. To ensure compliance with Open Meeting Law, privacy laws and other legal obligations, the WHA Board will not engage with a speaker or with one another in deliberation on comments as they are presented during Citizen Speak. At its discretion, the Board may schedule issues raised by a speaker for deliberation at a future meeting.
4. Speaker must state their full name and address before addressing the Board
5. 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.
6. All remarks will be addressed to the Chair
7. All remarks must be addressed appropriately and must avoid insulting or inflammatory language
8. 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.
9. Written comments/ letters may also be submitted to the Commissioners
10. Notes will be taken of the content of Citizen Speak with responses provided at a later date (if necessary)