

Fontana Regional Library Board of Trustees

Public Comment Procedures



1. To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board of Trustees shall provide a 30-minute period for Public Comment regarding library concerns at every meeting open to the public.
2. At the discretion of the Board of Trustees, the Board may choose to extend overall Public Comment period by a motion, a second, and an affirmative vote by the Board.
3. Persons wishing to speak must sign up on the Public Comment sign-up sheet prior to the start of the meeting. When the designated section for Public Comment is reached on the agenda, the Chair shall call names from the sign-up sheet in the order listed.
4. The Chair will recognize one person to speak at a time, and each speaker must provide their name and County of residence. Speakers must reside in one of the counties served by FRL (Jackson, Macon, or Swain). No person in attendance may make a Public Comment without being recognized.
5. Each speaker is only entitled to one (1) three-minute time period during each Public Comment period and may not split the time or give the time to another speaker.
6. Public Comments shall pertain to library matters. For specially called meetings, Public Comments will be limited to agenda items.
7. Public Comments must be addressed to the Chair. Public Comments may not be directed to an individual Trustee, to a library employee, or to other members of the audience.
8. The Board Chair may interrupt, warn or terminate a speaker's comments if their allotted time period has expired; if comments are personally directed, abusive, or obscene; or if inappropriate gestures or violent behaviors are exhibited.
9. The Board Chair may request that the speaker leave the meeting if the speaker fails to correct their behavior.
10. The Chair and Trustees shall not engage in dialogue with the speakers and there shall be no debate.
11. Personnel issues cannot be discussed in open session.
12. Additional agenda items will not be added after public comment, and there is no guarantee that suggestions brought forth by the public during the comment session will be addressed by the Board at a future meeting. The Board may refer any matter of public comment to the Library Director, County Librarian, or Branch Librarian.
13. We appreciate your coming to this meeting. Thank you for attending and sharing your thoughts with us.