



# **Carbon County Library System**

## **Public Comment Protocols**

The Carbon County Library System welcomes freedom of expression and recognizes that Library Board meetings are open to the public, however, they are not meetings of the public. In most circumstances, members of the public can attend our meetings; however, neither the Wyoming Open Meeting law nor the First Amendment grant the public a right to speak at these meetings.

The following protocols are to be followed with respect to public comment during the CCLS Board of Directors meetings:

- a. All comments are expected to be respectful and directed to the board as a whole, rather than individual members.
- b. No inappropriate comments or behavior will be tolerated. Inappropriate behavior is defined as attempting to engage individual board members in conversation, insults, obscenities or profanity, attacks against any person in their personal capacity, and/or physical violence or threat thereof.
- c. Speakers are limited to three minutes for presentation of their comment. Speakers may not concede or yield their time to another individual.
- d. The Chairperson or Board members will not enter into a dialogue with speakers. Presentations are for the receipt of information, not debate. Questions from the Board will be for clarification purposes.
- e. Demonstrations in support of or opposition to a speaker or idea are not permitted in the meeting.

- f. Any inappropriate conduct, whether verbal or behavioral, including failing to cease speaking upon expiration of time, may be addressed as follows:
1. A point of order made be made by any member of the Board; and/or
  2. The Chairperson may rule the speaker out of order;
  3. A speaker who is out of order and thereafter refuses to immediately conform their behavior to library policy forfeits the right to address the Board, and the Board will proceed to make a final determination on the matter.
  4. Any further disruption by a speaker or gross violations of library policy at any time, may result in the speaker being asked to leave the premises;
  5. If the speaker fails to immediately leave or the inappropriate conduct continues, the speaker may be removed pursuant to Wyoming Statute §16-4-406, § 6-6-303 and § 6-6-306
  6. Speakers who are asked to leave shall not be permitted to present comments to the board for six months thereafter;
  7. Pursuant to Wyoming Statute §16-4-406, if order cannot be reestablished following the removal of the person or persons willfully disrupting the meeting, the governing body may order the removal of the person or group from the meeting room and continue in session, or may recess the meeting and reconvene at another location.
  8. The Board may reconvene at the named location and may refuse to allow any member of the public who participated in the prior disruption to enter the room. Duly accredited members of the press or other news media except those who participated in a disturbance shall be allowed to attend any meeting permitted by this section.

### **Unlawful Conduct within Governmental Facilities**

In accordance with Wyoming Statute § 6-6-303, No person within or upon the facilities of a governing body shall refuse to desist from a course of conduct or to remove himself from the facilities upon request by an authorized representative of the governing body, after having been notified that the conduct or the presence of the person is contrary to or in violation of established policies, rules or regulations of the governing body which are reasonably related to the furtherance of the lawful purposes of the governing body and incident to the maintenance or orderly and efficient use of its facilities for the purposes for which acquired or designated.

In accordance with Wyoming Statute § 6-6-304, Nothing in W.S. 6-6-301 through 6-6-307 prevents, denies or abridges the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble to consult for the common good, to make known their opinions, and to petition for the redress of grievances.

In accordance with Wyoming Statute § 6-6-305 Any person violating any provision of W.S. 6-6-301 through 6-6-307 is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days, or both.

In accordance with Wyoming Statute § 6-6-306 Every governing body, acting through its officers and employees, may require identification of any person within or upon its facilities and eject any person from the facilities upon his refusal to leave peaceably upon request, when his presence in a facility is unlawful or otherwise prohibited by the governing body.

In accordance with Wyoming Statute § 6-6-307 Nothing within W.S. 6-6-301 through 6-6-307 is intended, nor shall operate, to limit or restrict each governing body from carrying out its purposes and objectives through the exercise of powers otherwise granted by law nor shall preclude a governing body from taking disciplinary action against those violating W.S. 6-6-301 through 6-6-307 who are subject to its disciplinary authority.