

**PUBLIC ACCESS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
AND
PROCEDURE FOR COMPLAINT TO BOARD**

Public Access to Board Meetings

Tarrant Appraisal District shall conduct all meetings in accordance with applicable Open Government Laws.

Right of Public to Address the Board

Pursuant to Section 551.007, Texas Government Code, each member of the public who desires to address the Board regarding an item on the agenda for an open meeting of the Board may do so in accordance with this policy. The right to address the board applies to any member of the public.

Comment Procedure

- a. After the presiding officer calls the meeting to order, the public comment period will be the first item on the agenda before the Board discusses or acts on any other agenda item.
- b. The Board will place the official sign-up sheet for the meeting in a conspicuous location at the meeting not later than 15 minutes before the presiding officer calls the meeting to order. Speakers may sign up to address the Board at any time before the presiding officer calls the public comment period agenda item, at which time the Board will collect the official sign-up sheet. Individuals may not address the Board or add their name or additional topics to the official sign-up sheet after the Board has collected it.
- c. Each speaker shall list their name on the official sign-up sheet, as well as the specific agenda item(s) they will be addressing. In addition to public comment on agenda items, the Board may also hear public comment on issues of general concern under its jurisdiction that are not on the agenda. If a speaker wishes to address an issue that is not on the agenda, they shall indicate on the official sign-up sheet that they wish to speak on a matter of general concern under the Board's jurisdiction.
- d. Speakers will be called upon in the order in which they appear on the official sign-up sheet. The Board will not hear public comments on matters that are not under its jurisdiction.
- e. The public comment period will end after all individuals on the official sign-up sheet have addressed the Board.

Time Limit for Public Comment

- a. Each speaker may address the Board for not more than 5 minutes per meeting. The Board has the right to extend or reduce the 5-minute time limit as it sees fit at any meeting.
- b. The official time for each speaker will be maintained and enforced by the Chair or the Chair's designee.
- c. Speakers may not pool their time or give unused time to another speaker.
- d. If there are many individuals who are aligned on an issue who plan to provide the same or similar comments, the presiding officer may request that the group designate a spokesperson to speak on the group's behalf. However, individuals may still provide additional comment if they choose to do so.
- e. If a speaker addresses the Board through a translator, the speaker will be granted twice the amount of time granted to other speakers in accordance with this policy.
- f. Time spent on Board member questions or comments shall not be counted against a speaker's time.

Location for Public Comment

The presiding officer shall identify the podium, table, microphone, or other location from which speakers may address the Board. Speakers may not address the Board from any other location.

Decorum

- a. All members of the public shall always be respectful of the Board and other attendees.
- b. Speakers shall address the Board one at a time.
- c. Attendees may not interrupt a speaker or Board member when the speaker or Board member has the floor.

Response by Board

The Board welcomes public input and will take note of all public comment it receives at a meeting. The Board may ask questions and engage in dialogue about public comments regarding items on the agenda. For public comments regarding items not on the agenda, the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act (Tex. Gov. Code Ch. 551) prevent the Board from engaging in a dialogue but allow the Board to provide statements of factual information or recite existing policy in response to an inquiry.

Access to Board for Non-English Speakers and People with Disabilities

If a person who does not speak English or a person who communicates by American Sign Language notifies the taxpayer liaison officer in writing at least three business days before a regularly scheduled meeting that they desire to address the Board and are unable to provide an interpreter or

translator, the District shall make reasonable efforts to secure the services of a translator or interpreter for the meeting.

Tarrant Appraisal District strives to provide reasonable access to the Board by disabled persons. As part of this effort, the District restricts seven parking spaces for use only by disabled persons and maintains wheelchair accessibility to the Customer Service area and to the boardroom. A person who needs additional assistance for entry or access should notify the taxpayer liaison officer in writing at least three business days before a scheduled meeting.

Cell Phone Use During Meetings

Directors to the greatest extent possible shall refrain from using their electronic devices during Board meetings.

Resolving Complaints

The Board will consider written complaints about the policies and procedures of Tarrant Appraisal District and any other matter within the Board's jurisdiction.

Correspondence should be addressed as follows and mailed:

Chair, Board of Directors
Tarrant Appraisal District
2500 Handley Ederville Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76118

Hearing impaired persons who TTY or TDD may call (817) 284-0024 to have a complaint delivered to the Board.

The Board will not consider complaints addressing any of the grounds for challenge, protest, or motion for correction of the appraisal roll that are specified in Sections 41.03, 41.41, and 25.25 of the Texas Tax Code. The Board of Directors has no authority to overrule an agreement between the Chief Appraiser and a property owner on a matter specified in Tax Code, section 1.111(e) or a determination of the Tarrant County Appraisal Review Board on a challenge, protest or motion for correction made under the authority of sections 41.07, 41.47 or 25.25 of the Texas Tax Code.

Any director who receives a written complaint shall be considered a temporary custodian of the complaint and shall immediately forward the complaint to the Taxpayer Liaison Officer for processing and resolution in accordance with this policy.

The agenda for each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board shall include an agenda item for a report by the Taxpayer Liaison Officer. At each such meeting, the Taxpayer Liaison Officer shall report to the Board on the nature and the status of resolution of all complaints filed. Board deliberations concerning complaints must comply with the applicable provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act. Until final disposition of each complaint and unless doing so would jeopardize an undercover investigation the Board shall notify the parties to the complaint at least once a quarter on the status of the complaint.

Other responsibilities of the Taxpayer Liaison Officer include:

- Administering the public access functions required by the Tax Code;
- Supporting the Chief Appraiser and their staff to assist property owner's in understanding the appraisal process, protest procedures and related matters;
- Developing and implementing policies and procedures to guarantee access to the Board by non-English speaking and disabled property owners;
- Preparing information of public interest describing the Board functions and procedures including how complaints are filed and resolved by the Board; and
- Performing other duties as assigned.