

Library board meetings are meetings conducted in public, but not public meetings. The public is able to “watch the board work” but not participate.

While there is no mandate requiring the Lenox Public Library Board of Trustees to allow citizen input at a library board meeting, the board recognizes the value of public comment, and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on matters of community interest.

In order to assure the public a fair and adequate opportunity to be heard, the following rules are established:

1. Public comments are permitted during the time designated on the library board agenda.
2. Comments will be limited to only those items listed on the agenda.
  - a. If someone wishes to address another topic, a call must be placed to the Library Director at least three days in advance of the next scheduled meeting, so that the item may be placed on the agenda.
3. Each presentation to the board made by an individual shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The board secretary will monitor the time.
4. Organizations should choose one representative to speak on their behalf.
5. No individual may speak more than once on the same topic.
6. The Board will not discriminate, and will listen to all sides of a topic.
7. The public comment section of the agenda is not a question and answer period. It is a time for listening, not debate. It provides individuals with an opportunity to express their comments. Board members are not obligated to respond to comments from the public. Issues requiring possible action by the board may be added to a future agenda.
8. Individuals attending board meetings must conduct themselves with respect and civility toward others. Abusive, profane, threatening, or harassing language and/or personal attacks will not be permitted. The board president or presiding officer may prohibit further comment at the meeting by a speaker whose remarks violate this rule.

The board president shall have the authority to determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise defined in these guidelines.

Board meetings are generally held the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the library.

You may contact the Library Director at 641-333-4411