

## RESOLUTION 2018-13

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF UNIVERSITY PARK RECREATION DISTRICT PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLIC'S OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD; DESIGNATING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS; DESIGNATING A PROCEDURE TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO BE HEARD; ADDRESSING PUBLIC DECORUM; ADDRESSING EXCEPTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, University Park Recreation District ("District") is a local unit of special purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 418, *Florida Statutes*, and Manatee County Ordinance 18-92, being situated in Manatee County, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 418, *Florida Statutes*, authorizes the District to adopt resolutions as may be necessary for the conduct of District business; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 286.0114, *Florida Statutes*, requires that members of the public be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a proposition before a board or commission; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 286.0114, *Florida Statutes*, sets forth guidelines for rules and policies that govern the public's opportunity to be heard at a public meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the District's Board of Supervisors ("Board") finds that it is in the best interests of the District to adopt by resolution a policy (the "Public Comment Policy") for immediate use and application.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF UNIVERSITY PARK RECREATION DISTRICT:**

**SECTION 1. DESIGNATING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS.** The District's Chairperson, his or her designee, or such other person conducting a District meeting ("Presiding Officer"), shall ensure that there is at least one period of time ("Public Comment Period") in the District's meeting agenda whereby the public has an opportunity to be heard on propositions before the Board, as follows:

- a) An initial Public Comment Period shall be provided at the start of each Board meeting before consideration of any propositions by the Board. In the event there are propositions that come before the Board that are not listed on the agenda, the Presiding Officer shall announce a Public Comment Period on such proposition prior to the Board voting on the matter.

- b) Speakers shall be permitted to address any agenda item or non-agenda matter(s) of personal or general concern related to University Park Recreation District, during the initial Public Comment Period.
- c) Individuals wishing to make a public comment are limited to three (3) minutes per person. Potential speakers may not assign his/her three (3) minutes to extend another speaker's time.
- d) The Presiding Officer may extend or reduce the time periods set forth herein in order to facilitate orderly and efficient District business, provided however that a reasonable opportunity for public comment shall be provided consistent with the requirements of Section 286.0114, *Florida Statutes*. The Presiding Officer may also elect to set and announce additional Public Comment Periods if he or she deems it appropriate.

**SECTION 2. DESIGNATING A PROCEDURE TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO BE HEARD.** Unless otherwise directed and declared by the Presiding Officer, individuals seeking to be heard on propositions before the Board shall identify themselves by a show of hands at the beginning of each Public Comment Period, as announced by the Presiding Officer. Alternatively, in the event that public attendance is high, and/or if otherwise in the best interests of the District in order to facilitate efficient and orderly District business, the Presiding Officer may require individuals to complete speaker cards that include the individual's name, address, the proposition on which they wish to be heard, the individual's position on the proposition (i.e., "for," "against," or "undecided"), and if appropriate, to indicate the designation of a representative to speak for the individual or the individual's group. In the event large groups of individuals desire to speak, the Presiding Officer may require each group to designate a representative to speak on behalf of such group. Any attorney hired to represent an individual or company's interests before the Board shall notify the Board of such representation prior to proving any public comment.

Sections 1 and 2 herein shall be deemed to apply only to District Board meetings, but the Presiding Officer of a District workshop in his or her discretion may elect to apply such Sections to District workshops.

**SECTION 3. PUBLIC DECORUM.** The following policies govern public decorum at public meetings and workshops:

- a) Each person addressing the Board shall proceed to the place assigned for speaking, and should state his or her name and address in an audible tone of voice for the public record.
- b) All remarks shall be addressed to the Board as a body and not to any member thereof or to any staff member. No person other than a Board Supervisor or District staff member shall be permitted to enter into any discussion with an individual speaker while he or she has the floor, without the permission of the Presiding Officer.

- c) Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the Presiding Officer from maintaining orderly conduct and proper decorum in a public meeting. Speakers shall refrain from disruptive behavior, and from making vulgar or threatening remarks. Speakers shall refrain from launching personal attacks against any Board Supervisor, District staff member, or member of the public. The Presiding Officer shall have the discretion to remove any speaker who disregards these policies from the meeting.
- d) In the case that any person is declared out of order by the Presiding Officer and ordered expelled, and does not immediately leave the meeting facilities, the following steps may be taken:
  - i. The Presiding Officer may declare a recess.
  - ii. The Presiding Officer may contact the local law enforcement authority.
  - iii. In case the person does not remove himself or herself from the meeting, the Presiding Officer may request that he or she be placed under arrest by local law enforcement authorities for violation of Section 871.01, *Florida Statutes*, or other applicable law.

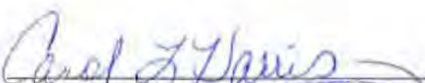
**SECTION 4. EXCEPTIONS.** The Board recognizes and may apply all applicable exceptions to Section 286.0114, including those set forth in Section 286.0114(3) and other applicable law. Additionally, the Presiding Officer may alter the procedures set forth in this Public Comment Policy for public hearings and other special proceedings that may require a different procedure under Florida law.

**SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this resolution is held to be illegal or invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

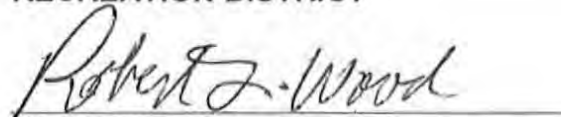
**SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed. Furthermore, upon its passage this Resolution supersedes any Public Comment Policy previously adopted by the District.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

**ATTEST:**

  
Secretary/Assistant Secretary

**UNIVERSITY PARK  
RECREATION DISTRICT**

  
Chairman