

**BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
POLICIES**

**SUBJECT: Board of Library Trustees (BOLT)
Meeting Policy**

ORIGINAL DATE:	05/11/2016
REVISED DATE:	12/06/2017
BOLT Resolution #:	R17-071
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A. Public Comment

Any member of the public or Library staff may address BOLT during the period set aside on the meeting agenda for "Public Comment". At a regular BOLT meeting, any topic pertaining to Library business may be addressed; however at a Special Meeting of BOLT, public comment is limited to items listed on the agenda.

BOLT may not discuss or take action on an issue raised during public comment. However, any BOLT member may ask a brief clarifying question or may refer a matter raised in public comment to the BOLT Secretary for follow-up or reporting back at a future date.

1. Speaker Cards

Persons wishing to speak need to submit a speaker card. Persons submitting speaker cards are not required to list their name, however they must list some identifying information or alternate name in order to be called to speak. Speaker cards will not be accepted after Public Comment has begun.

2. Time Allotment for Public Comment

Speakers are allowed 3 minutes each for up to 10 speakers; if more than 10 individuals have filled out and submitted cards to speak, the time for all speakers will be reduced to 2 minutes per person and if more than 20 individuals have submitted speaker's cards, the time per person will be reduced to one minute each, for a maximum of one hour of public comment.

3. Ceding Time during Public Comment

When up to 10 people wish to speak, and therefore the time limit per speaker is 3 minutes, one person may cede time to another for a total of 6 minutes of speaking time for that individual. When the time limit is 2 minutes, up to 2 people may cede their time to a third individual, for a total of 6 minutes for that speaker. When the time limit is 1 minute, up to three people may cede their time to a fourth person, giving that speaker a total of 4 minutes.

When an individual is called to speak, that person may cede their time to another person who has filled out a speaker's card, but has not yet been called to speak. An individual whose name has not yet been called may cede time to an individual whose name has just been called to speak. Time may not be ceded to an unspecified individual, an individual who has not filled out a speaker's card, an individual who has already spoken, or an individual who has already received the maximum amount of ceded time.

B. Comment from Library Unions

"For regular meetings of the BOLT, representatives from the three unions representing Library employees may address BOLT, with a total time limit of 15 minutes. If all three (3) unions have representatives present and wish to speak, each union shall receive 5 minutes to address BOLT. If only two (2) unions have representatives present and wishing to speak, each union shall receive 7.5 minutes to address BOLT, for a total of 15 minutes. If only one (1) union has representatives present and wishing to speak, that union shall receive 15 minutes to address BOLT. The Secretary shall, at the start of the Comment from Library Union item, ask union representatives who wish to speak to identify themselves

and which union they represent. The Secretary shall then determine the appropriate allocation of speaking time according to the rules stated herein.” The time allotment for union comment will not be diminished in the event of large numbers of speakers present for public comment, and cannot be ceded from one union to another.

C. Comment from Board Trustees

Time will be set aside on the agenda for brief comments and announcements from BOLT Trustees. BOLT Trustees may not engage in discussion of items raised during the Trustee Comment period but may make a referral to the BOLT Secretary of an item for follow up or for reporting back at a future date.

D. Order and Decorum

1. Presiding Officer

The Presiding Officer has the affirmative duty to maintain order. The BOLT will honor the role of the Presiding Officer in maintaining order.

2. Trustee Conduct.

While the BOLT is in session, the Trustees will practice civility and decorum in their discussions and debate. BOLT Trustees will value each other’s time and will preserve order and decorum. A Trustee shall not delay or interrupt the proceedings of the BOLT, use personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks, or disturb any other member while that member is speaking, or refuse to obey the orders of the Presiding Officer of the BOLT.

All Trustees have the opportunity to speak and agree to disagree but no Trustee shall speak twice on any given subject unless all other Trustees have been given the opportunity to speak. All Trustee remarks shall be addressed to the BOLT as a body and not to any member thereof. No question shall be asked of or by a BOLT Trustee except through the Presiding Officer.

3. Conduct of Public in Attendance

Persons attending the meeting shall observe the rules and procedures of the BOLT and shall not disrupt Trustee business, for example: by shouting, making disruptive noises, such as boos or hisses; creating or participating in a physical disturbance; speaking out of turn or in violation of the BOLT’s procedures or rules; preventing or attempting to prevent others who have the floor from speaking; preventing others from observing the meeting; entering into or remaining in an area of the meeting room that is not open to the public; or approaching the BOLT table without consent. Any message to or contact with any member of the BOLT while it is in session shall be through the Board Secretary.

Members of the public who do not follow the rules for decorum may be asked to leave the meeting. If a member of the public creates a significant physical disruption to the conduct of the meeting or acts in a threatening manner toward another member of the public, staff, or BOLT Trustee, law enforcement personnel may be called to remove the individual from the premises.

Reviewed by:	<u>Eelit Wann</u> Director of Library Services	<u>12/14/17</u> Date
Approved by:	<u>Diane Lee Dawang</u> President, Board of Library Trustees	<u>12/6/2017</u> Date