

HOW TO RUN AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MEETING



Encourage participation, focus on the evidence, apply the correct law, discuss public policy, and create a solid record of the hearing, all while leaving on time.

EFFECTIVE: *Why does it matter?*

Your hearing establishes the record of evidence.

An ineffective meeting:

- Fails to identify relevant evidence.
- Fails to apply existing code criteria to the application.
- Loses focus during the discussion.
- Allows irrelevant lines of questioning.
- Allows potentially prejudicial statements.

EFFICIENT: *Why does it matter?*

Better participation and less costs in time/money.

An inefficient meeting:

- Discourages public participation; leave before being able to speak.
- Adds to the costs to applicants and to the staffing needs for the City.
- Results in lower board attendance; tie votes and loss of quorum.
- Discourages residents from applying to volunteer on a board.
- Encourages irrelevant discussions and lines of questioning.

Effective = Achieve the Meeting Goal



Quasi-Judicial

- Key Goal: Decide a Specific Case.
- Achieved by applying the code criteria to the evidence.
- Remain impartial and unbiased.
- Move the discussion toward a motion to approve or deny.
- **APPLY THE EXISTING CODE**
- **CONNECT THE FACTS TO THE CODE**

Legislative

- Key Goal: Set Public Policy.
- Achieved by focused discussion on staff/consultant presentation and public comments.
- Move the discussion toward a specific direction for staff.
- **STAY ON TOPIC**
- **BUILD CONSENSUS**

Efficient = Achieve the Goal Timely



Quasi-Judicial

- Key Goal: Hear all Relevant Testimony and Evidence.
- Achieved by listening to the evidence and applying the code.
- ONLY ASK QUESTION IF IT IS RELATED TO CODE CRITERIA
- APPLY THE FACTS TO THE CODE

Legislative

- Key Goal: Hear all Stakeholder Suggestions to Create Policy.
- Achieved by redirecting off topic discussion to topic at hand.
- STATE YOUR POSITION ONCE
- ALLOW EVERYONE ELSE A SAY BEFORE YOU SPEAK AGAIN