

CALL TO ORDER

Strategies For Encouraging Public Participation
Without Losing The Effectiveness And Efficiency Of
Board Meetings



WE HELP INSPIRED ENTREPRENEURS, NONPROFIT LEADERS &
PHILANTHROPISTS TO CHANGE OUR WORLD.

AGENDA

- For Purpose Law Group - Who We Are
- Introduction Into Public Benefit Corporations
- Benefits of Public Participation
- Challenges of Public Participation
- Fostering Community Engagement
- Maintaining Meeting Efficiency
- Success Stories
- Concluding Remarks
- Q & A

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FPLG

- Founded in 2012.
- The “Go To” Legal Resource for Nonprofits.
- FPLG’s Mission
- FPLG’s Core Values
 - 1) Proactive Resourcefulness
 - 2) Compassionate Communication
 - 3) Uncompromising Authenticity
 - 4) Unapologetic Expertise
 - 5) Building our Community
 - 6) Inclusive Teamwork

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WHAT IS A PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION?



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BENEFITS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There are several benefits of allowing public participation at meetings, some of which include:

1. Better decision making
2. Increased transparency
3. Better community relations
4. Increased accountability



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BETTER DECISION MAKING



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INCREASED TRANSPARENCY



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BETTER COMMUNITY RELATIONS



- Generates Awareness
- Builds Relationships
- Educates & Informs

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INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY



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BENEFITS RECAP

Public participation can be an important tool for ensuring that a nonprofit organization remains responsive to the needs and priorities of the community it serves.

By listening to the community's feedback and concerns, the Board can make informed decisions that reflect the organization's mission and values.

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CHALLENGES OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Some of the challenges that can arise include:

1. Disruptions
2. Time Constraints
3. Unfocused Discussions
4. Legal Concerns
5. Managing Different Perspectives

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DISRUPTIONS



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TIME CONSTRAINTS



- Length of Meetings
- Decreased Efficiency
- Business Not Addressed

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UNFOCUSED DISCUSSIONS

- *MESSY*
- Disjointed
- C a t c
h o i

I'm not convinced
we've wasted
enough time
on this.



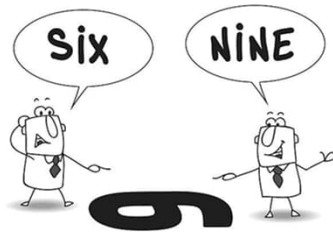
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LEGAL CONCERNS

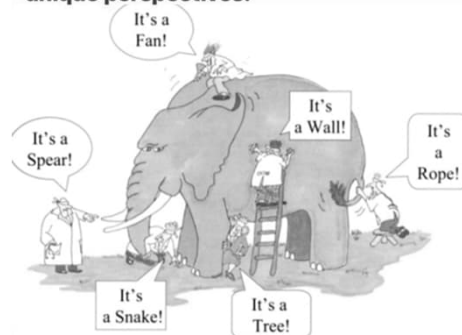
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DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES



Our life experiences give us each unique perspectives.



If we don't talk & explain our vantage points, we never understand one another.

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CHALLENGES RECAP

Overall, allowing public participation at meetings can be challenging, and it is important for the board to establish clear policies and procedures to manage these challenges effectively.

By doing so, the board can encourage public participation while still maintaining an efficient and productive meeting.

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PROCEDURES FOR FOSTERING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Setting clear guidelines for public comment
- Limiting the amount of time for each speaker
- Encouraging written comments
- Creating a committee or forum for public input
- Using technology to allow remote participation

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STRATEGIES FOR MAINTAINING EFFICIENCY

- Preparing an agenda with time limits for each item
- Ensuring all board members come prepared for the meeting
- Follow parliamentary procedures
- Limit discussions to relevant topics / agenda items
- Discuss sensitive topics in closed session

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SUCCESS STORIES

City of Seattle

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

American Red Cross

The National Park Service

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CONCLUSION

It is possible to encourage public participation without sacrificing efficiency.

By implementing clear procedures and policies to manage public participation, organizations can ensure that they remain responsive to the needs and priorities of the communities they serve while still maintaining an efficient and productive decision-making process.

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QUESTIONS?

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