

Public Hearings

101

The requirements and the realities

Brought to you by:

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&

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Legally speaking

- The Local government Act requires councils and boards to conduct public hearings before adoption or amending Official Community Plans, zoning bylaws or rural land use bylaws. LGA s. 464
- Considered a quasi-judicial function
- The statutory requirements for public hearings are set out in the Local Government Act sections 465 to 470.

You have the puzzle
pieces - now you
have to put it
together!



Principled decisions

- Think about YOUR principles as an individual, ie
 - Fairness
 - Sustainable
 - Integrity
 - Inclusion
- You will have many public hearings over the next 4 years.

Prepare yourself

- Open mind, not empty mind
- Unbiased position
- Input to all council/board
- Public perception opportunities and challenges
- Create a welcoming environment
- Microphones on/off

Conduct yourself

- Professional
 - Listen to all presenters, take notes if you want.
 - Remember FOI rules
- Questions not debates
- Watch your body language and facial expressions
- Courtesy and respect for all

Decision making

- Controversial and can be tough on emotions and relationships
- Council has limited ability to make any changes to the recommendation.
- If Council is ever stuck and needs assistance, your staff should be ready with advice.

Challenges

- Decisions can be challenged
 - Conflict of interest
 - Communications with proponents/opponents
 - Showing bias
- This will reflect on all of Council.

Questions?