12-23-2014

OPPL Board loosens public comment policy language

Eric Skalac

Follow this and additional works at: http://dc.uwm.edu/orland_park_library_challenge

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
http://dc.uwm.edu/orland_park_library_challenge/261
OPPL Board loosens public comment policy language
LETS TALK ABOUT LIVING WITH RELAPSING MS

Join us for an MS LIVING EVENT.
Hear from MS experts and others who are living with MS. Plus, get some answers about dealing with MS and information on an oral treatment.

Choose your date & location:
April 9 • 6:00pm • Chicago
April 10 • 12:00pm • Orland Park
April 11 • 12:00pm • Oak Lawn

A MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED.
FREE PARKING.

Register HERE at
mslivingevents.com
Or Call 1-866-703-6293
to reserve your space.

Most Viewed

1. District 230 board meeting used to highlights academic achievements

2. Police notified by FBI after Orland address appears on ISIS ‘kill list’

3. Police Reports March 26, 2015

4. Fashion is a Lifestyle: Men in shorts
The Orland Park Public Library Board of Trustees made more changes to their public comment policy Monday, Dec. 15. And the most recent changes made the policy “less wordy and more welcoming,” according to library spokesperson Bridget Bittman.

Changes included loosening language around the content and delivery of public comments. The previous policy included a requirement restricting “abusive, profane, harassing and/or repetitive comments and language and/or personal attacks.” That and other rules governing the content of public comments were removed, Bittman said.

The new policy also omits the previous requirement that all public comments be submitted in person. The new policy allows members of the public to submit comments by mail, email, and “other means.” Public comments made by “remote means” — including telephone, videoconferencing and some other electronic means — are prohibited.

Bittman said the changes were prompted by library staff, who “recommended it be streamlined and [made] easier to read.”

She said the changes were not a response to the State’s Open Meetings Act, which ensures that the deliberations and actions of public bodies are openly conducted.

In May, representatives of the Illinois Attorney General’s Public Access Counselor determined that the library board had violated the Open Meetings Act when they scheduled a special meeting on Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday. The determination was non-binding. In another non-binding letter of determination this year, the bureau concluded that the library board had restricted the topics of conversation in public comments during a January meeting.
In a letter addressed to the library board’s attorney, Dennis Walsh, the office cautioned the board “to avoid restricting public comment on substantive bases that are not addressed by its established and recorded rules.”

There was no public comment on Monday’s policy changes, but two members of the public criticized the board for alleged misuse of funds in 2011. Walsh said he did not know if the event in question constituted a misuse of funds or not.

The meeting also included a two-hour executive session, in which board members and staff discussed, “both litigation and a personnel review,” according to Bittman.

Add comment

You're currently logged in as: Michael Zimmer

Comment

More from The Orland Park Prairie

Police notified by FBI after Orland address appears on ISIS ‘kill list’
Township to host monthly immunization clinic
Poll workers needed in Orland Park for April 7 election
District 230 board meeting used to highlights academic achievements
District 230 Foundation ready to get its game on
Fashion is a Lifestyle: Men in shorts
OPPL Board loosens public comment policy language | The Orland Park Prairie