

Resolution 2021R-013

By Director Herndon

WHEREAS, Board Rule 1.13, Parliamentary Procedure, states that the most recent version of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the proceedings of the Board; and

WHEREAS, *Robert's* proscribes that before debate and discussion of a topic begins, that a motion must first be made so that members are clear as to what the question is; and

WHEREAS, Board Governance Policy 2.02, Governing Style, states that, relative to debate among Board members:

- 1) Each board member will be given the opportunity to speak once on an item before other board members are permitted to speak a second time;
- 2) Clearly stated time limits on speaking will be implemented; and

WHEREAS, *Robert's* proscribes that no speaker shall be permitted to speak more than two times on any one motion; and

WHEREAS, Members of the public who speak at meetings of the Board's committees are typically limited to two minutes and thirty seconds which has long been determined to be enough time to make a clear, concise statement; and

WHEREAS, A lengthy debate may often devolve into repetitious, and sometimes irrelevant, monologues which often do not further the purpose of the discussion of the subject at hand and, instead, blur the focus of the debate while, at the same time, depriving other participants equal time to present their points of view and contribute to the discussion; and

WHEREAS, In order to ensure the good order of meetings and to be fair to all who wish to be heard – both in the giving of public hearing and during debate among members - the Board must make a return to the full adherence of *Robert's Rules of Order*; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That after an item is announced, committee Chairs will not entertain comment without a motion first being made (and seconded at Regular and Special meetings of the Board); and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, to be consistent with the time limits placed on members of the public, all committee Chairs shall limit debate on each issue to two rounds of comment, with each member allowed two minutes and thirty seconds to speak per round, such time to be monitored in the same manner as is with members of the public giving testimony; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board instructs the Board Clerk/Chief Officer, Office of Board Governance to bring any necessary revisions to the Board Rules or Governance policies to the Board for its approval.

Introduced July 30, 2020