

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Relative Information: Rules of parliamentary procedure provide the means for orderly and expeditious disposition of matters before the Board. They govern the way Directors interact with each other. To facilitate decision-making, a simplified and flexible approach to parliamentary procedure is helpful. The Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, states, "Technical rules should be used only to the extent necessary to observe the law, to expedite business, to avoid confusion, and to protect the rights of members (directors)."

The basic principles of parliamentary procedure that apply include:

1. All Directors have equal rights, privileges, and obligations
2. The majority vote decides all issues.
3. The rights of the minority are protected.
4. Each Director has the right to understand every proposition presented for decision, and to engage in full and free discussion of the proposition's advantages and disadvantages before taking action.
5. The simplest and most direct procedure for accomplishing a purpose shall be observed, as long as it does not violate the rights of Directors or the laws.
6. Directors will be protected from abuse by visitors, spectators, and other participating in the Board's activities, by use and enforcement of orderly processes.
7. All meetings shall be characterized by fairness and good faith.

Several different model guides are available. The District has used The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure by Alice Sturgis for many years. Copies of the guide are available for reference through the District Business Office.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the Board of Directors to use, except as otherwise required, the Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure by Alice Sturgis as its parliamentary guide.