

HAHC Speaker Rules

The public is encouraged to take an active interest in matters that come before the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission. Anyone wishing to speak before the Commission may do so. The Commission has adopted the following procedural rules on public participation:

1. Anyone wishing to speak before the Commission must sign up to speak on a designated form located at the entrance to Council Chambers.
2. If the speaker wishes to discuss a specific item on the agenda, it should be noted on the sign-up form.
3. If the speaker wishes to discuss any subject not otherwise on the agenda, time will be allocated or allotted after all agenda items have been processed and "public comments" are taken.
4. Applicants for a Certificate of Appropriateness and historic designations are provided the first opportunity to speak and are allowed three minutes for an opening presentation. The applicant is also permitted a two minute rebuttal after all speakers have been heard.
5. All other speakers will be permitted two minutes to address the Commission.
6. No speaker is permitted to accumulate speaking time from another person.
7. Time devoted to answering any questions from the Commission is not charged against allotted speaking time. The commission may extend any speaker's speaking time if it is the Commission's judgment that additional time is needed to sufficiently discuss an item.
8. Only one person at a time shall be permitted to stand at the speaker's podium, unless the speaker requires an interpreter or other special assistance. After speaking time is up, the speaker must leave the podium unless the Commission has questions for the speaker.
9. The commission reserves the right to limit speakers if it is the Commission's judgment that an issue has been sufficiently discussed and additional speakers are repetitive.
10. The Commission reserves the right to stop speakers who are unruly or abusive.