



For Immediate Release: 10.06.03

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Plan Commission Revises Rules to Improve Public Discussion

The citizen volunteers on the Oak Park Plan Commission, the body charged with assessing most major development projects for the Village Board, have adopted new hearings rules and procedures intended to improve the overall public discussion and review process.

Set to go into effect for the Oct. 16 Plan Commission hearing, the new rules will not limit public testimony, but will urge speakers to limit their comments to five minutes. The new rules also will require speakers who wish to cross-examine witnesses to file their appearance forms by 5 p.m. the day prior to the hearing with the Office of the Village Clerk at Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

Also added to the Plan Commission procedures will be a new pre-hearing consultation period during which Commission members, the developer, interested parties and others in attendance at the hearing will discuss the meeting conduct and determine the length of the proceedings. The pre-hearing consultation will occur during the first 15 minutes of the public hearing.

The Plan Commission typically deals with major development projects that require exceptions to various ordinances, such as height restrictions or parking requirements. Developers first file a Planned Development application, which seeks Village Board permission to build. The Village Board then refers the request to the Plan Commission, which holds public hearings and reports its findings and recommendations back to the Village Board for action.

One of 27 citizen volunteer boards and commissions that advise the Village Board, the Plan Commission has the authority to change certain aspects of its rules and procedures, such as how public hearings will be conducted.

For more information on the Plan Commission or the Planned Development Process, call 358.5425 or email comsvcs@oak-park.us.

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PLAN COMMISSION

Docket No: _____ Name of Zoning Applicant: _____

APPEARANCE OF ATTORNEY ON BEHALF OF INTERESTED PARTY WITH RIGHT TO CROSS-EXAMINE

I, _____, an attorney, hereby enter my appearance on behalf of _____, an Interested Party in the above proceedings, with the right to cross-examine witnesses pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Oak Park Plan Commission.

My client is an Interested Party, which is a person with a special interest beyond that of the general public, for the following reason(s): *

_____.

*The reason(s) must be stated and is subject to review and approval by the Plan Commission. Property owners within the 500-foot notice area are considered to be Interested Parties.

_____ <i>Date</i>	_____ <i>Attorney Signature</i>
_____ <i>Client - Name</i>	_____ <i>Attorney Name (PRINTED)</i>
_____ <i>Client - Address</i>	_____ <i>Attorney Address - Street</i>
_____ <i>Community</i>	_____ <i>Attorney Community</i>

This appearance bearing an **ORIGINAL** signature must be filed with the Village Clerk not later than 5:00 P.M. on the business day preceding the commencement of the public hearing.



PLAN COMMISSION

Docket No: _____ Name of Zoning Applicant: _____

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED PARTY WITH RIGHT TO CROSS-EXAMINE

I, _____, hereby enter my appearance in the above proceedings with the right to cross-examine witnesses pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Oak Park Plan Commission.

I am an Interested Party, which is a person with a special interest beyond that of the general public, for the following reason(s): *

*The reason(s) must be stated and is subject to review and approval by the Plan Commission. Property owners within the 500 foot notice area are considered to be Interested Parties.

Date

Signature

Name (PRINTED)

Address - Street

Community

This appearance bearing an **ORIGINAL** signature must be filed with the Village Clerk not later than 5:00 P.M. on the business day preceding the commencement of the public hearing.