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## AN INTRODUCTION TO CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN ANN ARBOR

As a citizen, you can take an active role in shaping Ann Arbor by participating in the planning and development process. Described below are several ways to become involved, as well as tips for effective communication when attending meetings and conversing with planning staff, planning commissioners, developers, and fellow residents.

#### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ORDINANCE**

Ann Arbor's Citizen Participation Ordinance facilitates effective citizen participation early on in the project development process. City Code ensures that citizens and neighborhood groups are notified of proposed development projects in their community, depending on the size of the project:

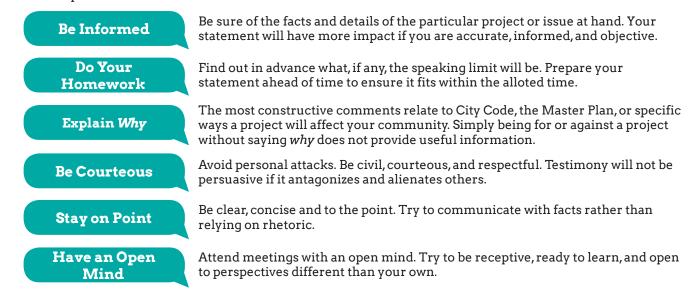
- For large projects, citizens within 1,000 feet of the site are notified by postcard and invited to attend a citizen participation meeting where they can ask the developer questions and comment upon the project. Citizen feedback will be recorded and assembled into a report for the City Planning Commission and City Council.
- For small projects, citizens within 500 feet of the site are notified by postcard and given the petitioner's contact information so they can ask questions and comment upon the petition if interested.

#### WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

- If a project is planned to occur in Ann Arbor, contact the developer, or if applicable, attend the citizen participation meeting for the project.
- Work with your neighborhood association to express your shared views. If you want to know more about neighborhood associations in Ann Arbor, visit www.a2gov.org/neighborhoods.
- Call a Planning staff member, or, email or write a letter to the City Planning Commission.
- Attend a City Planning Commission and/or City Council meeting. Individuals will be invited to speak for up to 3 minutes during the public hearing portion of the meeting.

### **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Successful planning relies on effective communication. When attending a public meeting or citizen participation meeting, or even when speaking or writing to planning staff or Planning Commissioners, it is best to follow the guidelines explained below:



Remember, you don't need to be an expert or an experienced public speaker to participate. Simply become informed about the issues, get involved, and share your thoughts. We look forward to hearing from you!

For more information about citizen participation in the City of Ann Arbor, visit the Planning & Development Services website, a2gov.org/planning, or contact staff at (734) 794-6265, or planning@a2gov.org.