

Garfield County Establishes Public Hearing Protocol

In an effort to promote orderly conduct and facilitate efficient communication, Garfield County has released a protocol for the public hearing scheduled at 11:00 am, Monday March 13, 2017 regarding modification of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument boundary.

In an action approved earlier in the current legislative session, the Utah State Legislature and the Governor directed Garfield and Kane Counties to consult with the Bureau of Land Management and create mapping of the minimum acreage necessary to protect antiquities identified in the presidential proclamation creating the Monument. Garfield County has scheduled a public hearing to obtain citizen input on a resolution implementing that directive. Kane County passed a resolution similar to the state directive in early February.

The public hearing protocol will be posted on the County's website at least 48 hours prior to the hearing.

Public Hearing Protocol
March 13, 2017,
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Garfield County Courthouse

Introduction: This public hearing protocol has been developed in an effort to promote orderly conduct, facilitate communication and increase efficiency of meetings at which significant public input is anticipated. The protocol also attempts to avoid unnecessary confusion, length and dissension at such meetings.

The purpose of a hearing is to inform the Commission, especially regarding information they may not have at their disposal. Witnesses speak to the Commission. Commissioners may ask questions of witnesses. Applause, cheering, booing, waving signs, expressions of sentiment or other disruptions are not allowed. In addition to maintaining an appropriate level of decorum, this rule is necessary to ensure that everyone, regardless of point of view, has the opportunity to address the Commission without bullying or intimidation. Signs, banners, posters and other visual displays are discouraged. Signs shall be limited to a single sheet not to exceed 11" by 17". Signs shall not be waived and shall be held quietly.

Individuals who a) disrupt the meeting by applause, cheers, boos, unauthorized comments, overt demonstrations, or expressions of sentiment, b) displaying signs, banners, posters or other unauthorized material, or c) are ruled out of order by the Chairman will be removed. When such disruptions occur from a group of individuals, the Chair may order all or part of the room cleared. Decisions regarding acceptable behavior, dress and visual materials shall be made by the Chairman, at his discretion. Failure to comply with directives of the Chair may be subject to prosecution under the law.

Room Capacity: The Uniform Building Code sets maximum public occupancy for the Garfield County Commission Chambers at 76. Up to 12 seats may be required for elected officials, staff and media. Approximately 64 seats will be made available for public hearing participants/audience, 32 for those that oppose the resolution and 32 for those that support the resolution. The 32 seat allotment includes up to 12 seats for those selected to speak. If one side does not use all of the allotted (32) seats, unused seating will be available to the opposing view. It should be noted there are more chairs in the Commission Chambers than are allowed under the Uniform Building Code occupancy requirements. In order to comply with law, the extra seats must remain unoccupied.

Seating Priority: The Commission Chambers will be closed until opened by County Officials. No public seating will be permitted until authorized by Garfield County. Seating will be by assigned number. Beginning at 9:00 am, a waiting area will be designated on the lawn south of the courthouse. Line priority will be on a first come, first in line basis; and reserving places in line will not be permitted. In order to obtain a line priority, a person must be present. There will be a line for those opposing the resolution and a line for those supporting the resolution. Prior to 9:00 am no person shall occupy the lawn area designated for waiting, and no person shall block, obstruct or otherwise disrupt use of sidewalks, parking lots or public areas in the vicinity of the Garfield County Courthouse.

Priority numbers will be given to those individuals occupying a place in the waiting line. Seating will be based on the priority numbers distributed by County officials. Individuals desiring to attend the public hearing need to be prepared to wait in line for up to 2 hours or more and should be dressed appropriately. It is anticipated that people in the waiting line will remain in line the entire period. In the

event an individual needs to leave the line, they shall a) report to the managing County official, b) report to the managing County official of their return within 5 minutes, and c) surrender their priority number to the managing County official if gone longer than 5 minutes.

At approximately 10:45 am seating in the Commission chambers will commence. Individuals selected to speak will be seated first followed by those in line with the lowest priority numbers until allotted space is filled.

Opportunity to Address the Commission: It is apparent those desiring to comment far exceed the time available. The Garfield County Commission will unfortunately have to limit public input to the time available. Approximately 25 minutes will be available for those who wish to speak against the proposed resolution; and approximately 25 minutes will be available for those who wish to speak in favor of the proposed resolution. It has been determined to allow those selected to address the Commission 2 minutes to express their view of the issue. This format and time limit is anticipated to permit up to 12 individuals to comment on each side of the issue.

Garfield County will also receive written comments until 10:00 am March 13, 2017. Written comments may be mailed to Garfield County, Attn: GSENM Resolution, P.O. Box 77, Panguitch, Utah 84759 or may be hand delivered at the Courthouse until the deadline. County staff officiating at the waiting line will be authorized to accept written comments until 10:00 am. Those mailing comments should allow sufficient time to have their comment delivered to the County P.O. Box prior to the March 13th morning mail pick up by Courthouse staff.

Request to Speak at the Public Hearing: Those desiring to speak at the public hearing will need to sign up prior to 10:30 am, March 13, 2017. Sign-up sheets for each side of the issue will be available at the Garfield County Clerk's office until 9:00 am, March 13th. Beginning at 9:00 am, sign-up sheets will be available at the waiting area on the south lawn of the Courthouse. Requesting an opportunity to speak will close at 10:30 am, at which time the lists of requested speakers will be given to the County Commission.

Selection and Seating of Public Speakers: Beginning at 10:30 am, the County Commission will review the lists of those requesting an opportunity to speak and will select up to 12 individuals speaking against the resolution and 12 individuals speaking for the resolution. The County Commission reserves the right, at their sole discretion, to modify the number of speakers. The decision of the Commission will be final.

At approximately 10:45 am, individuals selected to speak at the public hearing will be announced in the waiting area at the south lawn of the Courthouse. Selected individuals must be present at that time to be seated and claim their opportunity to speak. Failure to be present at 10:45 am will be a forfeiture of the opportunity to address the Commission. If an individual selected to speak is holding a priority number in line for seating, the individual will surrender the priority number to the County official and the line will fill in accordingly.

At 10:45 individuals selected to speak will be seated in the Commission Chambers. Speakers will be selected and seated in the order in which they will speak, as determined by the County Commission. Speakers must be present at 10:45 in order to claim their seat. When speakers are seated, priority seating will commence.

Prosecution of Meeting: After appropriate preliminary procedures are completed, the Commission Chairman will open the meeting for public comment. The first speaker for each side of the issue will take their places at the witness table. The Chairman will call upon one of the speakers to begin. The speaker will be given 2 minutes to express their view. Each speaker will begin by stating their name and legal place of residence. At the completion of the two minutes or earlier the speaker shall conclude their remarks. When 15 seconds remain, a signal will be given to the speaker. The microphone will then be passed to the next speaker, and the speaker who just concluded will re-take their place in the audience.

While the second speaker is giving their remarks the third speaker will take their place at the witness table and be prepared to speak when the microphone is passed to them. The sequence will continue until all scheduled speakers have presented their remarks. Any unused time will revert to the Commission and will not be passed to subsequent speakers.

The Commission may (or may not) choose to ask questions of individual speakers or hold questions until all speakers have presented their remarks. Questioning shall be at the sole discretion of the Commission. Speakers are encouraged to have remarks prepared that will fit within the 2 minute limit. Written comments will be received as described above.

Adaptation: This public hearing protocol has been developed in an effort to promote orderly conduct, facilitate communication and increase efficiency of meetings. It may be adapted as necessary to achieve those purposes. Adaptations and waivers of procedures described herein shall be at the sole discretion of the Garfield County Commission.