URISA Board Meeting & Information Policy

Drafted: August 2023

Adopted: 6 September 2023

URISA is a multi-disciplinary geospatial organization that provides professional education and training, a vibrant and connected community, advocacy for geospatial challenges and issues, and essential resources. URISA fosters excellence in GIS and engages geospatial professionals throughout their careers.

URISA board meetings exist so that elected URISA officers and directors, specified ex-officio members, staff, and invited guests can transact the business of the organization. URISA officers and directors have an ethical, fiduciary, and accountability role in strategic discussions and decisions being made that impact the organization, which non-board members do not have. To promote candor, increase decision quality, preserve fiduciary elements, and preserve the integrity of the board discussions, URISA board meetings are not open to guests. Guests, both members and non-members, may be invited by the board to attend a portion of a meeting. Candidates for the URISA Board may attend a meeting before agreeing to stand for election, but will be excused if the Board enters executive session. Incoming elected officers and directors may attend the entirety of the board meeting preceding GIS-Pro immediately before their term begins.

All URISA members have an interest in knowing the current state of the organization. To this end:

1. Summaries of major URISA board activities and votes will appear in every issue of The GIS Professional going forward. If the recent board activities are not summarized in the President’s Column, the President will coordinate with office staff to ensure that the information is presented.

2. URISA will establish a form by which members can request time to speak to the Board at a board meeting. Requests received at least seven calendar days...
before the next regularly scheduled board meeting will be added to that agenda as invited member comment, if the requestor is able to attend.

3. URISA will leverage Connect and other platforms to gather questions from the membership desiring feedback or response from the Board. The Board will promptly respond to such questions and ask for confirmation of receipt.

4. The URISA Board will schedule at least two “town hall” forums per year, either at the annual meeting or virtually, to give members the opportunity to ask questions.

5. URISA will continually evaluate the means and methods used to connect members to the board. If any of the above are discontinued, the policy shall be revised.

6. URISA elected leaders and staff commit to following up with questions received from members.

Notes:

1. Neither the November 1986 URISA Constitution, nor the URISA Bylaws adopted 15 August 2022, nor the URISA Policy Manual adopted 2 August 2022 explicitly specify if Board Meetings are to be “open” or “closed.”