

Zoning & Platting Commission

Texas Open Meetings Act & Walking Quorums



February 16, 2016

What is the Texas Open Meetings Act?

The Texas Open Meetings Act is a Texas statute that provides for public access to meetings of governmental bodies.

This body is subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act.



What does TOMA Compliance Require?

Meeting notice (agenda) must be posted, and...

- 72 hour notice
- Must include what will be discussed
- Citizen communication cannot be discussed

...discussions of official business by a quorum or more must occur in public.

- Official business does not include ceremonies/social events
- Working groups must be made up of less than a quorum
- Staff may “push” information to officials



What is a Walking Quorum?

A “walking quorum” occurs when there is a series of meetings or discussions outside of a posted meeting that effectively constitute a quorum, even though a quorum is not physically present at one time in one place.



How Do We Avoid Walking Quorums?

Stay aware of with whom you have discussed commission business.

Remember that social media is also subject to walking quorum considerations.

Keep quorum discussion and decision making entirely within posted meetings.



Questions?

Thank you very much for your service!

