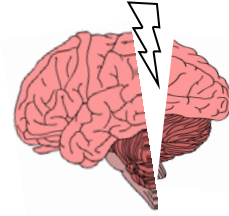


Board Member Schizophrenia: Quasi-Judicial Versus Legislative Roles... How Should You Be Acting?



When you are in Quasi-Judicial mode, you are on a case...judging a pending application.

- Don't talk or email about an application outside of the meetings—either to Board members or the public.
- Try to be impartial as possible, concentrating only on whether the application meets the written standards.
- Only discuss waivers that you have the authority to give.
- Consistency in interpretation is important, but if you discover that past practice has been wrong, don't keep doing it.
- Popularity of the project, who the applicant is, and whether you personally like the applicant or the project are almost always irrelevant.
- Your duty is to process the application as efficiently and as fairly as possible, sticking to the ordinance.
- The only relevant public comment is with respect to whether the application meets standards and whether procedures and submissions are in order.



When you are in Legislative mode, you are helping to create plans and ordinances that will be adopted by the Legislative Body.

- You may talk to as many people as you like outside of meetings, and you should study the adopted comprehensive plan (but don't talk to other board members).
- Use your feelings and instincts about what's right for the future of the community to decide how the ordinance should come out.
- Consider changing the way things have always been done.
- Popularity and what is politically possible needs to be realistically considered.
- You can be an advocate for a particular change.
- It is important to gather public input on how people feel about the rules and their vision of what should be allowed and encouraged in the future.