

(d) An amendment to the charter may be filed whenever there is a substantial change regarding matters stated in the original charter.

(e) The requirements of this section shall also apply to committees utilized as advisory committees, even though not expressly established for that purpose.

§ 12.8 Meetings.

(a) Advisory committees established under this part shall not hold any meetings, nor shall they render any advice, except at the call of, or with the advice and approval of, the Federal Officer or employee designated in accordance with § 12.10 of this part, who shall also approve the agenda of such meetings. Timely notice of each meeting shall be provided in accordance with § 12.11 of this part.

(b) The agenda required by paragraph (a) of this section shall list the matters to be considered at the meeting. It shall also indicate when any part of the meeting will concern matters within the exceptions of the (Government) Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552b, and § 12.9 of this part.

(c) Subject to the provisions of § 12.9 of this part, each advisory committee meeting shall be open to the public. Meetings which are completely or partly open to the public shall be held at reasonable times and at such a place that is reasonably accessible to the public. The size of the meeting room should be determined by such factors as the size of the committee, the number of members of the public who could reasonably be expected to attend, the number of persons who attended similar meetings in the past, and the resource facilities available.

(d) Any member of the public shall be permitted to file a written statement with the committee related to any meeting that is completely or partly open to the public. Interested persons may also be permitted by the committee chairman to speak at such meetings in accordance with the procedures established by the committee.

§ 12.9 Closed meetings.

(a) The requirements of § 12.8 (c) and (d) of this part that meetings shall be open to the public and that the public

shall be afforded an opportunity to participate in such meetings shall not apply to any advisory committee meeting which the President or the Director determines is concerned with matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c).

(b) An advisory committee which seeks to have all or part of its meetings closed shall notify the Director before the scheduled date of the meeting. The notification shall be in writing and shall specify the reasons why any part of the meeting should be closed.

(c) A request that the meeting be closed will be granted upon determination by the Director that the request is in accordance with the policies of this part. The Director's determination will be in writing and will state the specific reasons for closing all or part of the meeting. The determination will be made available to the public upon request.

(d) The Director may delegate responsibility for making the determination required by paragraph (c) of this section. In any case where the determination to close the meeting is made by the Director's delegate, the determination will be reviewed by the General Counsel.

(e) When a meeting is closed to the public, the advisory committee shall issue a report, at least annually, setting forth a summary of its activities in such meetings, addressing those related matters as would be informative to the public and consistent with the policy of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) and of this part. Notice of the availability of such annual reports shall be published in accordance with § 12.11 of this part.

§ 12.10 Designated Federal officer or employee.

(a) The Agency will designate an officer or employee of the Federal Government to chair or attend each meeting of each advisory committee established under this part.

(b) No advisory committee shall conduct any meeting in the absence of the Federal employee or officer designated in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) The Federal officer or employee designated in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section is authorized, whenever he/she determines it to be in

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the public interest, to adjourn any committee meeting he/she is designated to chair or attend.

§ 12.11 Public notice.

(a) The Agency's determination procedure described by §12.6 of this part for the creation of the advisory committee, and a description of the nature and purpose of the committee, should be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER at least 15 days prior to the filing of the committee's charter, unless the Secretariat, for good cause, authorizes a shorter period of time between publication of the notice and the filing of the charter.

(b) Except when the Administrator GSA determines contrarily for reasons of national security, timely notice of each advisory committee meeting, whether open or closed to the public, shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER at least 15 days before the meeting date. Such notice should state the name of the advisory committee, the time, place and purpose of the meeting, and should include, where appropriate, a summary of the meeting agenda. Notice ordinarily should state that the meeting is open to the public or explain why the meeting or any portion of the meeting is to be closed. Notices shorter than the time prescribed by this paragraph may be provided in emergency situations, and the reasons for such emergency exceptions should be made part of the meeting notice. *Due to the emergency nature of FEMA's many programs, it is contemplated that advisory committees may have to be established or meetings called on fairly short notice; however, every effort should be made to comply with the notice requirement, except in cases where delay may result in harm to individuals or damage to property.* A request for a determination that notice of a meeting should not be published for reasons of national security shall be submitted to the Administrator GSA with a statement of reasons supporting such request at least 30 days before the meeting is scheduled. Where, however, there is a significant likelihood of severe damage to property or injury to individuals, the notice period may be reduced as necessary to minimize such damage or injury.

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(c) In addition to the notice required by paragraph (b) of this section, other forms of notice such as public releases and notices by mail should be used to inform the public of advisory committee meetings.

(d) The Committee Management Officer, in coordination with the Office of Public Affairs, should, where practical, maintain lists of people and organizations interested in advisory committees and notify them of meetings by mail.

(e) Notice of the availability of the annual reports required by §12.9(e) of this part will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER no later than 60 days after their completion. Notice will include instructions which will allow the public access to the reports.

§ 12.12 Minutes.

(a) Detailed minutes of each advisory committee meeting shall be kept and shall contain a record of the persons present, a complete summary of matters discussed and conclusions reached, and copies of all reports received, issued, or approved by the advisory committee. The record of persons present shall include the time and place of the meeting, a list of advisory committee members and staff and agency employees present at the meeting, a list of members of the public who presented oral or written statements, and an estimated number of members of the public who attended the meeting. The minutes shall describe the extent to which the meeting was open to the public and the extent of public participation. If it is impracticable to attach to the minutes of the meeting any report received, issued, or approved by the advisory committee, then the minutes will describe the report in sufficient detail to enable any person requesting the report to readily identify it.

(b) The accuracy of all minutes shall be certified by the chairperson of the advisory committee concerned, except in the case of a subcommittee or subgroup of the advisory committee, in which case the accuracy of the minutes shall be certified by the chairperson of the subcommittee or subgroup concerned *and co-signed by the chairperson of the advisory committee.*