

**From:** [Andrea Gaffney](#)  
**To:** [BCDC PublicComment](#)  
**Cc:** [Tomerlin, Ashley@BCDC](mailto:Tomerlin.Ashley@BCDC); [Fain, Jessica@BCDC](mailto:Fain, Jessica@BCDC)  
**Subject:** Public meetings on zoom  
**Date:** Friday, July 28, 2023 8:20:51 AM

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Greetings BCDC,

This comment is mostly directed to staff but I would appreciate it if the Commission also be made aware of the comment and outcome.

I would like to request that public meetings that include zoom online format be held in the Zoom Meeting format and not Zoom Webinar format.

As the Zoom Moderator, you can control how panelists and participants engage in both formats, but in the webinar format, participants cannot see other participants online and have limited controls over how they view the meeting, ie. gallery or pinned view format.

Please note that I'm not commenting on speaking or chat functions.

Allowing participants to see who else is attending online is the virtual equivalent of being in the same room and seeing who else is in the room. While this might not be a stated benefit or requirement of a physical public meeting, knowing and seeing who else is attending a meeting is beneficial to everyone attending the meeting for many reasons that I'm sure you can identify.

Therefore I kindly request BCDC modify its online meeting format to extend this courtesy and transparency to online meeting participants so the participants can see who else is attending online.

I make this comment as someone who has experienced online public meetings as former BCDC staff running online meetings and now as a member of the public. I can say with certainty that the public's experience online is diminished in access in the webinar format from that of a meeting panelist in ways that a member of the public's participation would not be diminished by physically attending a meeting in person. I know that providing meeting access online has been continued to be allowed mostly to increase the public's meeting access and transparency. This is a minor request to create a better equivalency between the online meeting format and the in-person meeting format.

Please respond with an indication of how you will proceed.

Thank you and keep up the good work!

Andrea Gaffney