

SE Uplift LUTC Meeting: Rules of Conduct

Last Updated 2019

The SE Uplift LUTC hosts a number of relevant and contentious topics important to our community. We value that our LUTC meeting is a venue where accurate information about policies and proposals are shared and various (not all) perspectives exist and can be shared. Please understand that with the diversity of opinions and perspectives, comes an enormous responsibility on SE Uplift staff **and** participants to maintain a respectful and civil environment.

Every participant is welcome to share their perspective, ask clarifying questions, challenge assumptions, and make recommendations. Additionally, SE Uplift asks that participants do the following to keep this forum inclusive, where everyone feels comfortable engaging and welcome. **Therefore, by attending our LUTC meetings, participants are agreeing to the following:**

- **Contribute toward positive civic discourse.** This means ask the tough questions, challenge assumptions, disagree **but be civil, be polite and be respectful**. This means do not yell, cut people off, shout out your feelings, interrupt others, roll your eyes, mumble under your breath, or other subtle actions that create an unwelcoming environment.
- **Do not assume not everyone feels as you do about an issue.** I can guarantee everyone does not agree 100% on these complex issues. We are commonly caught in professional and social bubbles where our own opinions and experiences are reinforced, giving an impression that everyone thinks and believes what we do. It's just not possible.
- **Be courteous of presenters and participants' time and their expertise,** even if you don't agree. Many participants and presenters are not compensated for their time. If you feel you have data or expertise to the contrary, raise your hand and share your perspective and rationale for that. Keep your comments time appropriate, do not get into a debate regarding your own issues when that was not scheduled on the agenda, give others an opportunity to weigh in as well. If you have more to share, please, reach out to the facilitator, ([Leah Fisher](#)), for the best way to share more information with the group.
- **Be open-minded and listen to hear.** Often these issues are highly complex, have history, and directly impact individuals' lives. Depending on how close/far you live, work, or play from the proposal(s) your perspective and the impacts on you vs. the community as a whole will vary greatly.
- **Recognize and appreciate we are all experts of our own lives and experiences.** It's important to lead with "from my experience" or "I feel that" or "I've been impacted in this way" or "my concern is", "has this been considered?, How". Please **do not** assume your experience/concern/frustration/priority is the same as everyone in the room or the community - I can promise it is not.

- **Do not state your opinion as absolute or fact.** For example do not say things like: *"no one wants those ugly buildings with no parking"* (someone next to you might be living in one and think it is a fine place to live). Instead say, *"I don't like the style/height/mass of some of the new buildings, and I'm concerned about parking."*
- **Do not treat presenters/guests - or anyone - as if you are superior/ better/ more entitled.** Just because this is a public and open meeting, it doesn't give you the right to do whatever you want or treat people rudely. For example, don't say things like *"I pay your salary"* etc. Also avoid otherizing people/groups and using terms like *"you/those people"*.
- **No filming or photos without permissions.** If you choose to bring a video camera or camera - **you** are responsible for bringing and collecting signed consent forms from all participants.