

Town Hall Purpose & Guidelines August 2007

- These meetings are for any neighbor to bring any concern, question or discussion item.
- There is no agenda, minutes, or formalized facilitation for these meetings.
- Neighbors are free to inform the community of topics they plan to bring for discussion.
- The decision to hold a Town Hall Meeting may be made by any community member at any time.

What is a Town Hall Meeting?

*The **Town Hall** Meeting is designed to provide an opportunity for community discussion around any issues or concerns. It is a time to talk with your neighbors about what is foremost on your mind and to also hear from your neighbors. The **meetings** will not be a place for making community decisions, rather it is a place of listening and honoring. The discussion(s) may lead to bringing forth a proposal to the community.*

Why don't we have these discussions at Community Meetings?

The Community Meetings are for community decision-making. Our history has included lengthy, frequent meetings, with less defined parameters for decision-making and discussions. These meetings were rich with creative energy but burdensome and exhausting. Therefore, as a means for preserving the valuable process of neighborly discussions, brainstorming, and airing out of concerns the Town Hall Meeting was created.

Discussion Guidelines:

- Focus on listening and understanding
- Allow all points of views to be expressed
- Refrain from placing judgment on points of views and people
- Focus on the issue not the person
- One person at a time talk by using a talking stick or stone (whoever has the stone/stick is being heard, everyone else is listening to understand)
- Reflect back or check-in on what is being heard and particularly the meaning