A blue parallelogram and a light green parallelogram are positioned on the left side of the slide, overlapping each other and the dark background. The blue shape is on the left, and the green shape is to its right, partially overlapping it.

Not Running The
Meeting But...



Why is this relevant to you?

You are not running the meeting, but...

- It's 20 minutes and this meeting has been about the roundness of a button
- Last meeting went about the same...
- No one is coming away with an idea of what we're doing next

This is not a good use of anyone's time!



Why am I relevant to this?

I am not a runner of meetings, but...


- I'm a "cat herder"
- I'm a backend engineer
- Worked in small (<20) and larger (>200) companies



Debugging - Are you the right voice for this?

- How new are you to this feature?
 - To this team/company?
 - Are the vibes good?
- Who is “on paper” running the meetings?
 - Do they like feedback?
- Who is “on paper” taking notes?
 - Do they get more sway among the meeting participants?
- When was the last time you tried this?
- Basically: is there opportunity to take some charge?

P.S. Make sure you are not part of the problem!



Diagnostic Testing - What (rhetorical tools) do you have for this?

- Recruit a party! Potential allies include:
 - A(nother) senior voice
 - Project management or scrum master positions
- Try out various positions in a meeting
 - If there is no agenda-keeper, offer to be one
 - Test out asking for action items in the last ~5-10 minutes of a meeting
 - Maybe rotate responsibilities
- Try an interruption (if the vibes are right!)
 - Especially if you have a part of the feature you need clarifying
 - Ask permission/forgiveness from the meeting-runner



Strategy Executions

Examples include...

- “I believe \$ally and I would also like time to bring up \$subject_that_will_move_the_conversation”
- “So what is the action item you’d like me to write down?”
- “\$meeting_runner, is it okay if I suggested moving \$current_subject to its own meeting? I had a question for \$ally about \$different_subject”

Thank you

I make no guarantees do not come at me

Sometimes the vibes are just not vibing

check your emails or something

complain with me over a beer

