

Richmond Participatory Budgeting Commission

Meeting 12 - 3/1/42023

Attendance

Commission - Here

Aaron Linus

Erica Sklar

Oludare Ogunde

Jerome Legions

Erin Kelley

Commission - Online

Jeff Walker

Mary Gresham

Quawneisha Peoples

Shannon Gonzales

Commission - Away

Scott Castro

Consultants

Matthew Slaats - MSC

Addie Alexander – Intern

Shawn Balon – Storefront for Community Design

Agenda

1. Check in and General Updates

- Discussion about Mayors Budget and RVAPB inclusion
- Upcoming meeting with Lincoln Sanders
- Erica met with Councilmember Francis-Lambert; shared that there will be an admin cost and she seemed supportive
- Rhudy survey–please fill it out! - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rva_budgeting
 - They will present on the 19th to show us what they've got
- We should share an overview with all council people and staff related to projects in the city– maybe the letter that Matthew put together about budgeting
- Next steps:
 - Send update and one-pager to be sent out to all city staff
 - Commission members joining upcoming meeting with Council and CoS Saunders

2. RVAPB Process:

- There was a bunch of activity on the PB process document - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KoTYiviyiogG_SMukWzfEJP3roo9dWflsxFPD6m1cP6I/edit?usp=sharing
- Jeff pulled material from DurhamPB evaluation to get post process updates, these he included in the document.
- **Idea collection**
 - Idea of reaching out to existing organizations and regular meetings; civic associations, NAACP, city council district meetings, Crusade for Voters
 - We should place our attention on specific avenues for ideal collection: Start with Council districts and then civic associations, then partners, before putting extra work into disenfranchised/underserved.
 - Between now and Fall of 2024, we should start building deep partnerships with groups in our different geographical areas so we know exactly who we're going to go to when it starts
 - Also online idea collection; personal, consistent element of giving an idea to people's face
 - Could we have metrics for this? For example you could say there needs to be at least 1 council meeting, at least 3 civic association/ grassroots org meetings, etc.
 - 3 months of idea collection
 - What do we do to prep groups?
 - Fall of 2024 will be a major election year locally and federally
 - Is there a way to use that to our advantage? Like asking city councilors about PB as part of their electoral bids
 - Constantly putting out new ideas that we're gathering through idea collection—keep them online somewhere and continually add
 - This can also be used for transparency around what ideas moved on and which ones didn't and why
 - Getting people to submit ideas on the spot at resource fairs, outreach at convenience stores, meetings, etc
 - Cards/ mailers with a way for people to submit into a box
 - Be consistent—like pick libraries, grocery stores, etc so there's clarity
 - Can the city send out a mailer to everyone?
 - Schools/ PTAs
 - Doing workshops with kids, give them cards to take home to their parents
 - Idea to ask public utility to include things in bills
 - RVA 311
 - Try to get other groups to print and hang up the flyers—spreading the word to places where ppl go regularly—community health centers, places where people get stuck (DMV, lol)
 - Justice Center could also be a good place, or diversion programs

- Storefront has a list of orgs that they've engaged
- Richmond 300 mailing list—can we get access to that?
- 14 is required cut-off point—could be younger too
- We need a core question that we're asking everyone:
 - “How would you make your neighborhood better?”
- After idea collection there's an evaluation moment—could be just during a city council meeting—we will need to do some kind of eval—maybe people thumbs up/ down on the website; eval could also be done by the commission to see if they fit into the eligibility guidelines
 - In the interest of transparency, we could have a list of all eligible ideas for people to vote on on the online platform, and then a list below of ineligible projects that no one can vote on
 - Important for everyone to be able to see their ideas
 - Also good to see what people in the community think is important
- **Proposal Development**
 - Can we ask grassroots orgs to participate as budget delegates?
 - Ppl who submit ideas could be budget delegates
 - Potential hold up could be getting answers from DPW, city departments
 - Maybe a single point of contact on city end so people aren't getting a bunch of calls from lots of different budget delegates they don't know
 - Maybe categories for how long each project would take to implement
 - Durham has a matrix they use with feasibility, impact - https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/durhamnis/pages/551/attachments/original/1556303496/Project_Evaluation_Matrix_and_Instructions_Template.pdf?1556303496
 - If a project comes up and it's already in the pipeline for CIP, what happens?
 - How do you make sure all the things that people vote on add up to \$3 million?
 - You have to figure out how much everything will cost in the proposal development process
 - Some projects will be through RFPs and partners, some will be directly by the city
 - Maybe lower dollar amounts don't have as many restrictions—could get around RFP that way
 - They're usually required to send RFPs to a certain number of companies
 - We need to know what the rules are about RFPS
 - This goes into the matrix to evaluate projects so we can make informed decisions
 - Scoring rubric is another tool
- **Voting**
 - More like idea collection—everybody does it
 - How much time do we give people? A month? A week?
 - How are the ballots going out?

- A month would give us time to hit more meetings
- Hand counting? Is there a way to do it online/ automatically?
- Online and paper ballots
- Gamifying idea–show the votes adding up to the total
- How do we keep it equitable? Dividing up the money by district
- You could have one pot for your district, and then one pot for city/ other districts, but that wouldn't work well with a paper ballot, very confusing
- Maybe keeping it simple for the first year
- Drop-off sites–libraries? And maybe additional access for particular communities

Next Steps

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday – April 19th 2023 4:30 – 6pm

Location: Annex Room – Downtown Library - 101 E Franklin St, Richmond, VA 23219

<https://virginia.zoom.us/j/95054755159?pwd=ZU94aUtoc2hYIVKSDNRRWx5MWtZdz09>

Meeting ID: 950 5475 5159

Passcode: 279689

One tap mobile

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+12678310333,,95054755159# US (Philadelphia)

Agenda:

Presentation from Rhudy and Co about Communications Plan

Continue Process Review

Action Items

PB Consultant –

Share RVAPB Update with Commission

Engage Council about

Commission –

Complete Rhudy Survey - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rva_budgeting

Review Rulebook and Complete updates to sections

- 1) Finalize Budget recommendations
- 2) Set Metrics for the Goals
- 3) Deeply Review the Process
- 4) Finalize Timeline
- 5) Review Roles
- 6) REview FAQs