

Welcome and Check-in:

- Matt gives an overview on the agenda, which includes a table workshop.
- Matt clarifies the Phase 1 report deliverables (e.g., rule book, communication plan, evaluation plan, engagement plan).
- Matt and Commission Members set the last day of May as the goal deadline for the rule book, which will also serve as the next meeting date.

General Updates:

- Communication plan drafts will be come out soon. For branding, the two most popular concepts are “People’s Budget” and “Participatory Budgeting.”
- The global organization People Powered will provide assistance thinking about engagement and advising on a PB digital platform.
- Matt suggests a move to monthly meetings focused on partnerships and engagement after the rule book is completed.
- The official PB process will begin in Summer 2024, but a lot of partnership and engagement work comes first. The next task will be to sketch out necessary partnerships.; create engagement materials (e.g., videos); attend City Council distinct meetings; canvassing; etc.
- Matt still trying to clarify if the City Council will hire two full-time employees to run the PB process. Matt feels this is incredibly important, and a Commission Member urges quick action on hiring due to upcoming debt ceiling conversation. Another Member raises the Commission’s role in the hiring process.
- Matt had a meeting with VCU Urban Planning Department on student engagement with RVAPB, especially for proposal development.
- Southside of Richmond has a \$10K budget for participatory budgeting, which Members identified as an opportunity for collaboration.
- The Commission discusses challenges in generating new engagement and ideas on a district-by-district basis.
- Members identify programming, staffing, and maintenance tail costs as challenges in capital construction projects (e.g., pools).

Rulebook Working Session:

Table session considering idea collection, proposals, and voting

- Commission Members write down five ideas (3 general and 2 focused on underserved neighborhoods) for PB on post-it notes.
- The ideas are posted on a wall to be organized/broken down into categories. In PB, idea categorization is the step before proposal generation. For the Richmond process, some of the groupings will also be by district.

- Green spaces (e.g., gardens, trees, etc.)
 - Transit ideas (e.g., new bus stops, potholes)
- Commission Members discuss the disparity in basic infrastructure across districts in Richmond. For example, VCU and Museum have basic infrastructure like sidewalks, crosswalks, trees. There is a general consensus that more attention should be focused on the 8th, 6th, and 9th districts.
- Another Member proposes directing CIP funding or partnership funding for ideas that go beyond the scope of PB. The Commission agrees that, at the idea stage, it's good to voice all ideas, even if they go beyond the PB scope. The process will also include an education component on the PB funding source, constraints, and possibilities.
- In the proposal stage, the ideas will be evaluated based on their urgency, need, and popularity by the Commission.
- Commission Members identify the need to clarify the 60-40 district split of funding.
- Identification of “underserved” districts or neighborhoods will be guided by the RVAgreen 2050 social vulnerability index (i.e., the ability to respond to crisis).
- PB ballots typically have names, costs, and brief project descriptions. Commission Members raise whether the ballots should be city-wide or district-based.
- A Commission Member raises that RVA 311 may be a good platform to source ideas tagged with the relevant community data. This leads to a discussion on what a PB digital platform would look like.
- One planned, Commission-backed change to the PB Ordinance is an explicit mention of youth involvement. Members identify the ban on “school” funding in the PB budget as a possible roadblock to productive youth engagement.