

Participatory Budgeting: Update and Recommendations

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

City Staff/Council



PB Cycle 1 Review

September 2015 – May 2016

- 1,123 residents voted
 - 40 volunteer budget delegates
 - Over 50 community outreach opportunities
 - 26 winning projects
 - Funding provided in FY 16-17 Budget (July 1 2016 – June 30 2017)
 - 18 of the 26 winning projects are completed



Process Evaluation/Improvements

PB Process Evaluated Prior to Start of Cycle 2

Steering Committee Evaluation

Completed in August 2016

- Recommendations included:
 - Clarifying parameters that make a PB project feasible.
 - Steering Committee membership as two year terms, with alternates.

Budget Staff Presentation to Council

Presented in October 2016

- Recommendations included:
 - Adjusting the program timeline for a 2-year cycle; Cycle 2 occurring from April –November of 2017.

PB Evaluation by UNCG

Completed in December 2016

- Recommendations included:
 - Modifying the timeline of PB to align with the City's budget process.
 - Expanding PB to be a city-wide process, rather than district based.



PB Cycle 2 Review

March 2017 – November 2017

- 1,199 residents voted
 - 42 volunteer budget delegates
 - Over 55 community outreach opportunities
 - 25 winning projects
 - Funding to be provided in FY 18-19 budget (July 1 2018 – June 30, 2019)



Staff Recommendations

- **Formally establish PB as an ongoing process with a two year cycle**
 - Each cycle would include an project development year and a funding/project implementation year
- **Establish a City Council liaison**
 - Establish a direct line of communication between the PB Steering Committee and City Council
- **Incorporate existing neighborhood plans into the PB process**
 - Previous neighborhood plans could serve as valuable references for citizens wishing to participate in PB

Additional Steering Committee Recommendations

- **Formally establish a Participatory Budgeting Commission and include with other City Boards and Commissions**
- **Reconsider/Adjust Steering Committee size**
 - The Steering Committee recommends that the new Commission have 11 members; two (2) from each Council District and one (1) at-large.
 - The Steering Committee recommends appointments be staggered with 2-year terms.
 - Members would be eligible to serve three (3) 2-year terms for a maximum of 6 years on the Commission.
- **Establish a City Council liaison**