



Richmond Participatory Budgeting Commission

Agenda - 1/10/2024

### Agenda

1. Welcome/Approval of Minutes – 5 min
2. Conversation with VCV – 55 minutes
3. Updates – 5 min
4. Partnerships – 5 min
5. 2024 Calendar – 10 min
6. Governing Document Efforts - 5 min
7. Next Meeting/Agenda – 2/7 5 min

Location - Blackwell Community Center

### Steering Commission Attendance

Jerome Legions, Mary Gresham, Aaron Linas, Erin Kelly, Abigail Delaney,

### Missing

Quwaneisha Peoples, Shannon Wilson-Gonzales, Oludare Ogunde

### Partners

Virginia Community Voice

Josh

Sherika

Patrice Shelton

### RVAPB Consultants

Matthew Slaats

### City

Andreas Addison

Introductions

All the attendees introduced themselves

Goal for the meeting is to connect, learn, and hear about the work that is going on around Richmond. Answer the question of how RVAPB can be supportive of that?

Meeting Agenda run through - Matthew

### **Councilman Andreas Addison addresses group**

Discusses his interest in participatory budgeting and why he had been supporting these efforts PB is about showing how government can work for the community and how City Council can listen to residents. How do we build trust in the process and developing RVAPB over time.

### **Approval of Past Minutes**

Motion - Mary Gresham

2nd - Erin Kelly

Yes - All

No - None

### **Approval of Online Participation - Jerome Legions**

Motion - Mary Gresham

2nd - Abigail Delaney

Yes - 7

No - None

### **Virginia Community Voice Conversation**

Sherika Chew - Engagement Coordinator

Mission is better the lives of residents on the Southside by responding to neighborhood needs and preparing institutions to respond ethically to those needs.

They achieve their mission via two programs - Community Engagement Blueprint (coaching program for other institutions) and RVA Thrives (working develop Black and Brown community members to address community needs)

Use a 4 step process

1. Listen to give them voice - 2019 did a community wide series of surveys and listening sessions. Residents identified Affordable housing, safety, and climate issues as key concerns.
2. Connect with community and other stakeholders to understand issues and identify solutions.
3. Craft - Develop and implement solutions.
4. Reflect - How did it go? What needs to be added? How can we improve.

Neighbors are always being compensated.

### **Patrice Shelton - Community member and participant in VCV**

A big focus is beautification and bringing neighbors together to talk and act. It is about giving people a voice and overcoming distrust with institutions. Showing people their voices have

power. Southside has been underserved, displaced, and unheard for so long. VCV is about taking action, which residents value. People, no matter if they are home owners or renters, have a role in the community. This has changed the perspective of community. Housing is another a concern. It is more than a political point, but a tangible need. Getting the right people at the table and the right information. Has seen and worked with a lot organizations on the Southside and VCV is the one that takes action.

### **Josh Scott**

How they take action

Equitable development score card/Community development agreement

Developer and residents score a project and difference provides an opportunity for conversation. Trying to get this passed by city council and seeing it used as development happens in the Southside.

Greening Team - response to climate impacts. Cleaning streets, planting trees, making gardens. In future, they want to craft way for city/business to support this.

Future - Leadership Academy - Being done with Southside residents. Starting with the question of what the community knows and wants. This isn't about VCV. Happy to see residents pursue other opportunities

Healing Hub - Addressing mental and emotional trauma of racism.

Preparing to be a part of RVAPB. Doing this by working with their residents to do this internally in the Southside. Providing \$10K.

### **Turn to questions/conversations**

Matthew - There is a lot of synergy with Steering Commission - Values and Commitments. Rootedness is key connection. The RVAPB efforts are discussing trust and needs.

Aaron - reminds him of neighborhood resources center. Focus around specific need (alcohol sales to minors) and then using that as a platform for further action. This is about creating empowerment and ownership of place. Holding developers accountable and in check. Loves how developers are keeping themselves in check via the score card. Similar to political action committee because they are forming power amongst the community to take action.

Addison - City Council has taken action around a development score card, but is still waiting to see if embraced by administration. Wants to see ways that benefit both community and development. There is a two year place holder for this. Now need to take action.

Abigail - There is lots of aspirations, but things fall through. Score card is a post development and beyond. Follow project in the future. Important to create transparency in process.

Erin - VCV work resonates. Sees world via frame of resource allocation. Money, attention, time. Wants to support way for people to be involved in the decisions that impact their lives. How do we raise awareness of process on govt. side. Curious about internal VCV PB process. Also curious about Who should we be in touch with and What are we asking of people?

Patrice - \$10k as a starting point. This is only a starting point. Continue thinking about how much is needed to make an impact in the neighborhood. Trying to think about things as much as possible ahead of time to make the \$10k go as far as possible.

Mary - Would like to get more information about engagement to get people more engaged with these processes. District meetings tend to be the same people. Why don't people want to be engaged? How do we get the community engaged? I talk to people but they just don't seem to be interested.

Patrice - The honest answer - You need to be a bully. I advocate and take people to things because they believe and trust me. Be that loud person. Also, don't be disappointed with low numbers. If you have a solid 20-40 people they will take it back to the community. Think about both the people in the room and the people that aren't in the room. Have the right people in the room to take it out the streets. Identify the core people and then build around them. Give them ownership and responsibility. Focus on a specific area. Have it be led by neighbors. Lack of trust with gov/landlord. Build relationship and do what you say.

Mary - As someone dipping their toe in the political realm, can have a conversation with 10 person and there is different responses. Some help, other don't, but they don't show up. People are afraid of what people think. Politicians work for you.

Patrice - People are afraid of retaliation. May own rent, but also recognize the need for change. They are scared of what could happen if they say something and don't have the support to do it. If you say something you have to do it. It only take one time to lose trust.

Jerome - Get things in writing. Not just verbal. People need to understand the zoning process. Get in touch with city staff and others. Discussed problems with affordable housing. Find those in the community that understand finance, planning and law. Get people involved. Find your supporters. Appreciates VCV's focus on the Southside. We need to find ways for the north and south side to work together.

Abigail - the divides are many - north/south, social economic, etc How do we overcome this?

Josh - VCV's is working on the internal process. Giving people the opportunity to lead. Finding other partners. Look into the blueprint process. First Wednesdays - monthly webinar to dip your toe into the training they do.

Sherika - We need to bring people together and be intentional. VCV's mission focuses on the Southside but recognize the need to share information more broadly. Also finding points for collaboration.

Mary - Have to understand the difference between the districts are significant. Have to witness these difference. Need to take care of where you are first.

Sherika - Needs to share the information. Can we move beyond piecemealing.

Patrice - There are 9 City Council members. They need to work across their districts. Council should represent the entire city. Issues with Mayor. Can these both be less divided? City Council and non profit need to communicate and collaborate more beyond individual needs. How do we collaborate together? Because of lack of collaboration, people are lost.

Matthew - Wraps up conversation. Discusses how the VCV scorecard can influence the RVAPB scorecard. Also in his new role, how we can use RVAPB to support greater collaboration.

Shift to agenda

### **Updates**

Hiring is happening - Matthew shares job descriptions.

Engagement Coordinator position is open at the City. It has been shared.

They will play a big role in RVAPB.

PB Organizer -part time - we are looking for a person and support these meetings and develop partners.

Possibly also an intern.

How can the commission be a part of the hiring process?

Matthew shares general thoughts about the applications that have been submitted.

### **1 on 1s with Council members**

These are still happening. Down to the final three - Robertson, Newbille, Trammel

### **New Systems and Support**

We are moving these over to the city systems to support us. Zoom will transition for Teams.

City Council staff will help with the project.

### **Official Announcement about RVAPB**

This will happen at the Feb 5th Organizational Development meeting.

### **Printing and Design**

Conversations are ongoing about this.

### **Press Release**

This is going out shortly after meeting.

We are preparing all the resources to support this.

### **Partnerships and Calendar**

Matthew shared documents about the partnerships we will be building and a calendar for the spring.

Patrice - Asks about the engagement process and how we are reaching out to people.

Erin - Finding ways to create a strong strategy around partnership and engagement strategy.  
What about meeting people at laundromats, library, etc.

Matthew - responds about the various ways we are trying to include this.

### **By-Laws**

Aaron is working on this and has been looking various examples.

He is going to share this for next meeting. More questions will arise as we look at this.

Meeting ends