



## Minutes for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 Meeting of the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Committee of Freehold Borough

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In attendance: Mark Bravaco, Carrie Conger (co-chair), Joanna Connelly, Kathy Eckhardt (co-chair), Ted Eckhardt, Cary Freyre, and Annette Jordan (liaison).

The meeting began at approximately 7:09pm.

In approximate chronological order:

It was indicated that the digital PB form (allowing participants to easily submit their project proposals online) has been delayed and is not done yet; but that it should be finished in the next two weeks. Thus, at present, the *main* ways to submit a project proposal form are to:

1. Download the form from the PB webpage, print it out, fill it out using a pen/pencil, and then drop off or mail the physical copy to Borough Hall;
2. Download the form from the PB webpage, print it out, fill it out using a pen/pencil, digitally scan the form, and then email it to [freeholdpb@gmail.com](mailto:freeholdpb@gmail.com); and
3. Download the form from the PB webpage; fill it out using a PDF editor, and then email it to [freeholdpb@gmail.com](mailto:freeholdpb@gmail.com).

No project proposal forms had been received as of yet.

Updates were shared regarding community outreach presentations, and some progress had been made. Ted and Kathy E., for example, said that they'd presented to the Little League; and Dan had at least one presentation coming up.

Annette J. mentioned that there is a shortage of bike-racks in the Borough—only around 11 at the moment—and Carrie C. suggested that she might get her wife to send in a bike-rack proposal. Joanna C. expressed interest in purchasing and donating some bike-racks to the Borough; and Cary F. suggested reaching out to the Rotary Club to submit a proposal.

Carrie C. said that another committee she's a member of was interested in submitting a project proposal form for a digital kiosk, though (after some discussion) we leaned in the direction of such an idea *not* fitting the PB criteria because of the probable associated costs of development and updates to the kiosk's content—even though a digital kiosk *did* make it into the ballot in a previous year.

Annette J. shared some updates regarding the municipal budget: We had ostensibly received some official funding from the municipality, and printing projects (such as PB t-shirts for Committee members) were in the works.

Annette J. also confirmed that the Committee will be able to walk in this year's Memorial Day Parade and floated the idea of hosting a "Volunteer Appreciation Day" for Freehold Borough volunteers on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

The plan for printing PB flyers and posters is as follows: Mark B. (supplying the money) and Annette J. (supplying the confidence) will go to a printing business next week to get print-outs, with the price ultimately being reimbursed to Mark B. in the future. Then, Mark B. will reach out to Jeffrey Friedman, executive director of DowntownFreehold.com, and ask if he'd be able to distribute some of our posters/flyers to downtown businesses. If Jeffrey F. is unavailable to do so, then Mark B. will reach out to Kathy and Ted E. and distribute our printouts to businesses with them. Also, Mark B. plans to put out some flyers in the community, similar to his distribution efforts last year.

The Committee was updated on the results of the youth Participatory Budgeting process that had taken place in one of Freehold Borough's schools, supported by the Freehold Borough Educational Foundation.

Carrie C mentioned Jesse, who lives in the area and who submitted a project proposal form last year for a disk-golf course. Jesse is apparently teaching in one of Freehold Borough's schools and is interested in using the Borough's PB process to teach his students about civic engagement, though his students' don't meet the age criterion. The Committee agreed that Jesse's students could still participate as long as Jesse (as the adult who *does* meet the criteria) submits the projects on his students' behalf.

It was uncertain as to whether PB sandwich boards had been acquired yet.

The Committee discussed possible public events at which we might have some presence, such as: The June 25<sup>th</sup> Food Truck Festival; Juneteenth; the Borough-wide garage sale; Porch Fest; and at the Farmers' Market, along with local music and movie events.

The next PB Committee meeting is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>.