

# Agenda

## Greensboro City Council

### **PARTICIPATORY BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Monday, October 21, 2013

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Council Chambers

- I. Call to Order - Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne J. Johnson, Chair.
- II. Approval of the September 30, 2013 Minutes – Committee.
- III. Presentation on City of Greensboro Budget process - City Manager Denise Turner Roth.
- IV. Public Comment Session.
- V. Committee Discussion and Follow-up – Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson.

The Participatory Budget Committee will be taking questions and comments via Twitter and e-mail up until the beginning of its meeting at 3:30 p.m. for those unable to attend. The City's official Twitter handle is @greensborocity, e-mails should be sent to [cogcc@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:cogcc@greensboro-nc.gov), and calls should come to 336.373-2489.

Prior to the date of the briefing, contact Greensboro Television Network at 333-6922 if you have electronic presentations.

Any individual with a disability who needs an interpreter or other auxiliary aids or services for this meeting may contact the City Clerk's Office at 373-2397 or 333-6930 (TDD).

### **MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**ROBBIE PERKINS, Mayor**  
**YVONNE J. JOHNSON, Mayor Pro Tem**  
**NANCY VAUGHAN, At Large**  
**MARIKAY ABUZUAITER, At Large**

**T. DIANNE BELLAMY-SMALL, District One**  
**JIM KEE, District Two**  
**ZACK MATHENY, District Three**  
**NANCY HOFFMANN, District Four**  
**TONY G. WILKINS, District Five**

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET COMMITTEE  
CITY OF GREENSBORO

COMMITTEE MEETING

30 SEPTEMBER 2013

The Participatory Budget Committee of the City of Greensboro met at 3:30 p.m. on the above date in the Council Chamber of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the following members present: Mayor Pro-Tem and Chairman Yvonne J. Johnson, Councilmembers Nancy Hoffmann and Zack Matheny; Absent: Councilmember Jim Kee. Also present were City Manager Denise Turner Roth, Assistant City Attorney Tom Carruthers, Finance Director Rick Lusk, and City Clerk Elizabeth H. Richardson.

Mayor Pro-Tem and Chairman Johnson opened the meeting at 3:31 p.m.; stated the meeting would be televised; explained that citizens could call in at 373-2489 with questions; and stated contact information would scroll along the TV screen.

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Councilmember Hoffmann left the meeting at 3:31 p.m. and returned at 3:35 p.m.

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Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson announced that the Committee would receive a presentation by the citizen group; read the question received via email as to what the group proposed to cut to fund the proposed Participatory Budget if the City's revenues did not increase; explained the Committee would explore what would be cut throughout the process; and would keep the question on the table and consider it through the process.

Wayne Abraham began the presentation; thanked the Committee for having Participatory Budgeting Greensboro here to make a presentation, introduced the other members in attendance; spoke to the work they had done; explained what the process was in having citizens present ideas on how they wanted their tax dollars spent; stated the process would not increase spending or taxes; that the process utilized a small percentage of the total City budget; and referenced successes through the U.S. and around the world. Mr. Abraham spoke to how City services touched citizens' lives; voiced support of engagement with citizens; referenced cities where Participatory Budgeting had been done; spoke to the benefits of having direct citizen engagement; and provided a video on Participatory Budgeting.

Andrew Trump spoke to the video; explained that the process would provide an opportunity for the city to invigorate and improve by building excitement around the City; generate ideas from all over the City; would get people talking about what was needed as well as create shared responsibility for the outcomes of the decisions; bring other people to the table to share common interests and bring their ideas to life; and would help citizens understand the process. Mr. Trump stated Participatory Budgeting would provide a way for residents to demonstrate what they cared about; referenced the amount of money being used in other cities for Participatory Budgeting; and spoke to issues the City was facing.

Spome Jovanovic, spoke to the history of the work the group had done over the past two years; provided a PowerPoint Presentation which outlined the research overview since 2011; spoke to what Participatory Budgeting was; how it worked; provided a graphic showing a ladder of budget participation; referenced cities in the US where Participatory Budgeting was taking place as well as start-ups; provided highlights of work over the past two years; a graph of residents involved in the analysis; and comments from information sessions held in the community.

Councilmember Matheny asked for clarification as to who was involved in the research; referenced that students and homeless did not pay taxes; and requested the makeup of the 134 participants.

Ms. Jovanovic responded that the number of participants had come from the presentation and mock Participatory Budgeting sessions; provided a breakdown of the percentage of general public, student, homeless and homeless

advocates that had participated; provided examples of projects that could be done through Participatory Budgeting and announced a Participatory Budgeting Greensboro Party scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> to be held at the UNCG Faculty Center from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Larry Morse, focused on the critical and fiscal realities of Participatory Budgeting; emphasized the process would not involve additional taxes; and added that money that was a piece of the projected budget would be set aside to go through the decision process.

Councilmember Matheny voiced concern that the money would need to come from somewhere if the City was not going to raise taxes.

Mr. Morse provided an example if 1% of the budget were dedicated to Participatory Budgeting; referenced that staff would still identify programs for residents of the City; would continue to make judgments about what they believed the City and the residents currently wanted; reminded the Committee who the recipients of the programs would be; stated that Council typically voted on a budget based on 98% of the property tax dollars being collected; added that the funding could come in higher than what was anticipated; and that Participatory Budgeting would not have an impact on the projected shortfall nor would it change revenues. Mr. Morse emphasized that Participatory Budgeting would open the door to allow residents to participate in the decision making process.

Mr. Abraham addressed concerns with having enough lead time for the process to occur and be incorporated; provided a proposed timeline for a July 1, 2015 budget; confirmed that there would be plenty of time to look at how a project would impact the budget; stated citizens would work with staff to see what a proposed project would actually cost; and stated it was important to point out that the process would take months so that everyone would be ready to go.

Mr. Trump clarified that Participatory Budgeting would not be a cure all but would be an important part of the cure; reiterated that Participatory Budgeting would bring people together; referenced the federal budget and possible government shutdown; spoke to getting people excited about Participatory Budgeting; and having the ability to model good government and democracy.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson thanked the group for the presentation; and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10 Committee meeting.

Moved by Councilmember Zack Matheny, seconded by Councilmember Nancy Hoffmann to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2013 Committee meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Mayor Pro-Tem stated the Committee would have public comment and discussion.

Committee members asked if the research was ongoing; how the funds would be allocated between the districts; if there would be a grassroots effort in organizing district meetings; and if the process could be designed to meet the specific needs of the City.

Ms. Jovanovic responded that the research was ongoing; addressed the importance in citizens having a say on how the money was spent; that the initial task force would define the rules for the process; spoke to alternative methods for participatory budgeting to figure out what would work best; and confirmed that a strong grassroots base would be very important in the process.

Mr. Morse spoke to the makeup of the neighborhood meetings; the need for the meetings to be productive and run in a way that participants felt the meetings were worthwhile; and spoke to the need to identify people in the City who might want to provide some leadership in facilitating those meetings.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson encouraged people to provide questions or comments through Twitter, email or by contacting the City at 373-2489.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson explained the next meeting would have a staff presentation; discussion as to the challenges and benefits to Participatory Budgeting; and how the Committee would move forward with the process.

City Manager Roth explained staff would compile information; spoke to how the program would be structured; voiced the need for clarity around whether the City would need to reduce something in the existing budget in order to fund the process; referenced what she had seen with other cities which had a focus of funding around capital projects rather than operations; spoke to what the City classified as capital; referenced discussion regarding using money from one program to fund another; confirmed that the City funded the people that ran programs and had ongoing programs that would need continued funding; and spoke to the difference in capital funding.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked the City Manager to present what she thought would be the best way to incorporate Participatory Budgeting.

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It was the consensus of the Committee to meet on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber which would be televised.

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Moved by Councilmember Zack Matheny, seconded by Councilmember Nancy Hoffmann to adjourn. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote of Council. The Committee adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

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(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is attached which is hereby referred to and made a part of these minutes).

ELIZABETH H. RICHARDSON  
CITY CLERK

YVONNE J. JOHNSON  
CHAIRMAN & MAYOR PRO-TEM

## **The Changing and Challenging Discourse of Participatory Budgeting**

Spoma Jovanovic, Associate Professor  
Ranata Reeder, Graduate Research Assistant

Department of Communication Studies  
University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
September 2013

## Research Overview

- Data collection since May 2011.
- Research funded by the Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society at Villanova University.

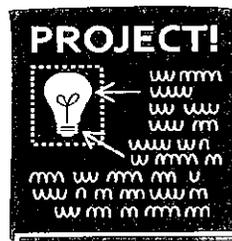
# What is Participatory Budgeting?

- A democratic process where community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.
- Blends direct democracy with representative democracy.
- Recognized in 2013 by the White House as "Champions of Change" initiative.

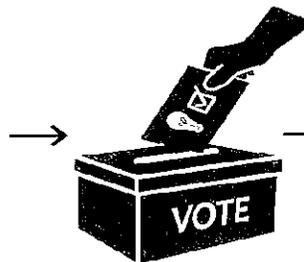
# How does it work?



Residents brainstorm ideas



Delegates develop proposals

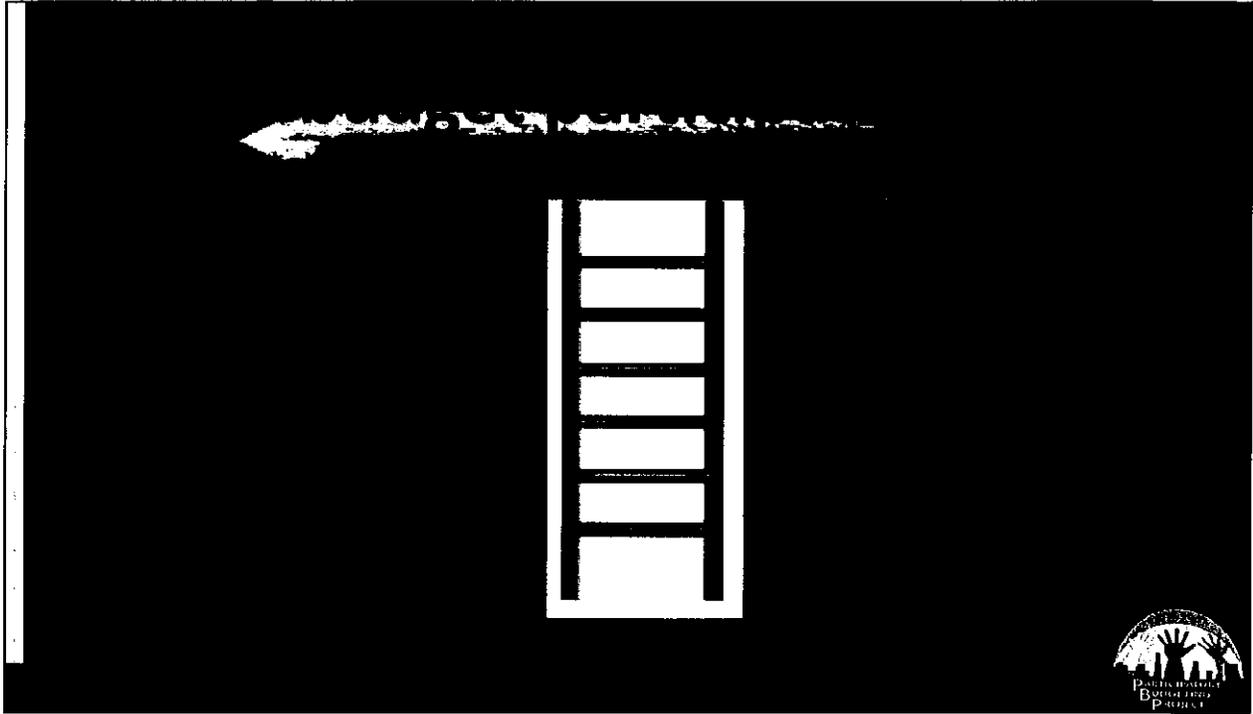


Residents vote



The top projects win funding





## PB in the United States

- **Joe Moore in Chicago's 49<sup>th</sup> Ward** was the 1<sup>st</sup> in 2010, using \$1.3 million
- **IMPACT:** In 2012, expanded to 4 wards, 20 participating organizations, \$4 million.
- **New York** started with 4 districts in 2012 and \$6 million
- **IMPACT:** For 2013, NYC doubles to 8 districts, \$10 million, bi-partisan support.....and, \$25 million in next round.

## PB's Newest Initiatives

- **City of Vallejo, CA** in 2013 hosted the first city-wide PB action using \$3.2 million
- *IMPACT*: Unanimous City Council support for at least the next 10 years of PB.
- In **San Francisco**, "The civic engagement was amazing" said Supervisor Chiu.
- *IMPACT*: Proposals being drafted for expanded on-line PB process.

## PB Start Ups

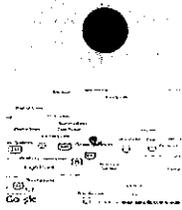
- **City of St. Louis**
- **Palo Alto College**
- **City of Greensboro ? ? ?**

## PB GSO: From the Beginning

May 2011  
Greensboro  
launches PB  
organizing



March 2012 1<sup>st</sup>  
Int'l PB  
Conference NY



July 2011  
Research  
begins/IRB



## PB GSO: Moving Forward

May 2013 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Int'l PB  
Conference  
Chicago



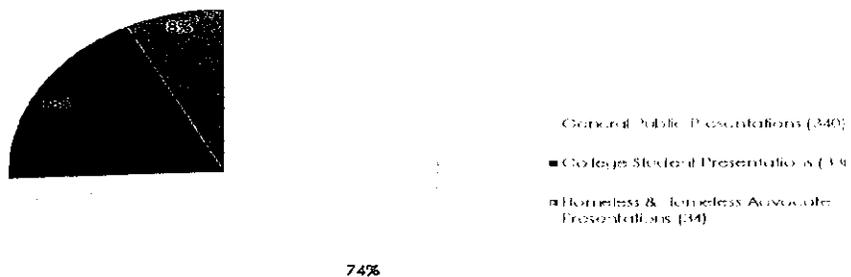
Oct. 2013  
PBGSO  
facilitates a  
community  
PB process



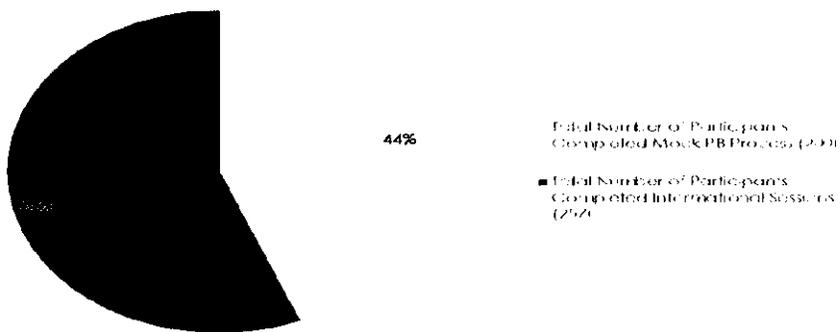
June 2013  
Josh Lerner &  
Joe Moore  
meet with  
City  
Council/Staff



## Greensboro's Residents & PB



## Presentations & Mock PB Sessions



## Greensboro Residents Speak Out about PB

- 8 out of 10 report that PB accessible
- 83% reported gaining insight into others' perspectives.
- 84% said they were exposed to new ideas.

## Greensboro Residents Support PB



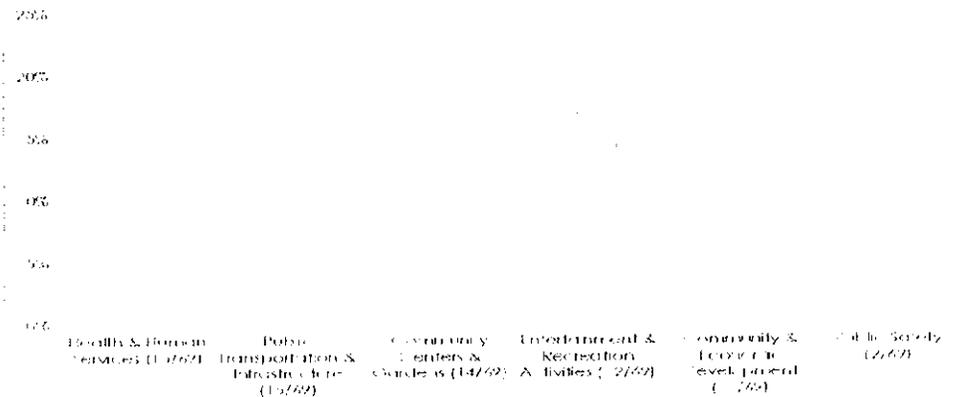
92%

- Surveyed Participants Wanting PB in Greensboro (11/11)
- Surveyed Participants Unsure of Wanting PB in Greensboro (2/11)
- Surveyed Participants Not Wanting PB in Greensboro (3/11)

## PB Offers Opportunities to Practice Democratic Arts

- 55% believed their **voices were heard** in deliberations
- 84% were **exposed to ideas they believed would make Greensboro better.**
- 58% **enjoyed discussing community needs** without an expert defining the issues.

## PB Projects Greensboro Wants



## Restoring Public Trust and Civic Action in Greensboro

● **91%** are confident PB GSO will enhance:

✓ **democracy**

✓ **community**

✓ **strong government**

## PB GSO: What Will It Take?

- City Council Resolution.
- Steering Committee and "Rules" for PB.
- Recruitment of diverse groups.
- EDUCATION about city processes & costs.
- Staff support for proposal development.
- A meaningful amount of money for PB...1% of the city's budget.

## PB GSO Coming Attractions

- PB GSO Party, **October 26, 2013, 6-9 p.m.**  
UNCG Faculty Center

For \$5-20 (sliding scale), attendees will enjoy a meal and vote to fund a community project with the proceeds collected that night! Project proposals being accepted until 10/22/13.

## Contact PB GSO

- Online: [www.greensboropb.org](http://www.greensboropb.org)
- Twitter: @GreensboroPB
- Facebook: Participatory Budgeting Greensboro