

# Message From the Chair

January 2020

It may be a little cliché, but where has the time gone? 2019 rushed by for the Participatory Budget (PB) program in Freehold Borough. Now in its fourth year, we had four winning projects from a slate of 9: basketball court refurbishing at Liberty Park, solar powered speed limit signs, lights at Lake Topanemus, and welcome signs into the Borough.

In 2020, we're making some changes to make the project submission and development process easier. Instead of requiring all of the details in advance as in prior years, now, a simple title and one or two sentence description is enough. From there, committee members will work to fill in the details if they haven't already been included. Hopefully, this will take some of the stress out of creating a full proposal and we'll be able to get even more great ideas to make Freehold Borough better. We're already starting to have ideas come in!

In addition to making the process easier, we're also offering workshops every month to help you develop your ideas. On the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM in Borough Hall, committee member(s) will be available to help you develop your project ideas. Come on down, meet the members and let the creative juices flow.

As in previous years, projects will need to be submitted by a deadline. That date is September 2nd for 2020. After review, approval, and development by the Committee and feasibility review by the engineering department, they'll go on the ballot. Voting will take place in November, and the winners will be announced on November 23rd. Here is a link to the [detailed timeline](#).

This year the Participatory Budget Committee with the help of the Freehold Borough Education Foundation has started to work with Freehold Intermediate School (FIS). The 8th graders graduating in 2020 will be responsible for implementing and running a participatory budgeting program to solicit, evaluate, and vote on projects for the atrium behind their library. We're looking forward to seeing what they come up with.

As always, we're looking for people to step forward and volunteer as committee members or just to help with developing and evaluating project ideas. If you'd like to participate, please send an email to [freeholdpb@gmail.com](mailto:freeholdpb@gmail.com) with your name, contact information, and a little bit about yourself.

Thank you, and have a great 2020!

Scott Corbett

Chairman, Participatory Budget Committee, Freehold Borough