

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

**Zoom Meeting
August 30, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting #4 Minutes**



Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Kevin Davis	Present 7:11	1	Barbara Ringuette	Absent	7
Lanira Murphy	Present	1	Ronee Reece	Present	7
Emilie Hill	Absent	1	David Hunter	Present 7:08	7
Brian Allen	Present till 7:59 Returned 8:16	2	Jamie Tijerina	Present 7:18-7:57	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	2	Liz Amsden	Present	8
Garry Fordyce	Present	2	-----	-----	8
Carol Newman	Excused	3	Elias Garcia	Present	9
Lee Blumenfeld	Absent	3	Elice Hennessee	Present	9
-----	-----	3	Leslie Gamero	Absent	9
-----	-----	4	Jennifer Goodie	Present	10
Howard Katchen	Present	4	-----	-----	10
Brandon Pender	Absent	4	Hugo Rodriguez	Absent	10
Jack Humphreville	Absent	5	Jay Handal	Absent	11
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Daniel Perez	Present till 8:42	5	Jon Liberman	Present 7:24	11
Ernesto Castro	Absent	6	Danielle Sandoval	Present	12
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Margarita Lopez	Absent	6	Gina Martinez	Absent	12

- I. Welcome and Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jennifer Goodie at 7:04pm, with a full quorum reached at that time.
- II. Roll Call: See above for Roll Call.

Budget Rep Adriana de la Cruz (Mar Vista del Rey NC) was present.

Also present were guests: Ana Gomez, Bruce Wilson and a representative from Rampart Village NC.

- III. Public Comment on non-agenda items: Adriana de la Cruz.
- IV. Congress of Neighborhoods - Saturday, September 25, 2021:

- A. Exhibitor Booth: what time slot do we want? Budget Advocates will be staffing the second time slot of the Exhibitor Booth, 10:50am – 1:25pm.
- B. Volunteers for Congress ad-hoc committee: Kay, Sheryl and Glenn will serve on the ad-hoc Congress of Neighborhoods Committee.

V. Budget Day:

- A. Wrap up 2021: The event was a success, with 180 attendees and support from DONE. Some regions requested meeting for quarterly discussions.
- B. Setting date for 2022:
 - 1. Do we have Budget Day in 2022? Jennifer moved to hold a Budget Day on the third Saturday in June of 2022. MOTION PASSED BY ACCLAMATION, with 18 for and no abstentions.
- C. Regional follow-ups:
 - 1. Email survey: Discussion on sending out a post-event survey to attendees.
 - 2. Quarterly meetings for regions' Budget Reps: Several regions expressed interest in meeting more than annually. Discussion on setting a date for quarterly meetings with Budget Reps. Adriana volunteered to help with engaging Budget Reps to be more proactive.

VI. Committee Reports:

- A. Outreach - Budget Advocate promo video: Options are being considered as to who will continue work on the script Julia created for the promo video. Discussion on the possibility of multiple videos being used to portray different angles. Request that someone take over advancement of the project.
- B. Bylaws Committee: Bylaws Committee meetings have been suspended due to Budget Day. A new meeting will be set in September to start work on the next portion of Bylaws, likely before the Congress of Neighborhoods.
- C. Finance & Budget Committee: A committee meeting will be set shortly. The End of the Year Report was distributed, but work on the budget was postponed until after Budget Day.

VII. NCBA Committees:

- A. Sign-up for committees: Members should expect an e-mail including a

roster and committee sign-ups.

1. Outreach: The Outreach Committee needs help. This includes social media promotion, planning for Town Halls and other promotional material and events. Glenn volunteered to help and will continue posting on Twitter, Instagram and other platforms. Assistance is needed with these efforts and with possible articles.
2. Finance & Budget: A meeting with the Mayor in advance of his Budget Memo being issued has not yet been requested. As many Budget Advocates as possible are asked to attend, once a date is set.
3. Budget Day: Plans were made to follow-up on social media regarding Budget Day and to drive traffic to the website to access the Plenary Session recording.
4. Budget Report/White Paper: Item tabled.
5. Publications: Item tabled.
6. Departmental: Item tabled.

VIII. Upcoming trainings: Budget Advocates should watch for an email from Barbara with one or more trainings featuring Jacob Wexler from the CAO's office. All members are requested to attend.

IX. End of Fiscal Year 2020-21 Financial Report: Lanira is waiting to receive additional information from Man-Qin regarding mistakes in DONE's accounting. She will then draft a letter announcing Budget Advocates' cancellation from the CityWatch account, with a month's notice.

A request will be made to receive financial updates from DONE in a monthly cycle, rather than once per year. As of July, all bills are being paid, except CityWatch.

Kay moved to support the End of Year 2020-21 Financial Report. Jon seconded. MOTION PASSED, with 12 for, 2 opposed and 2 abstentions.

X. Minutes: Item postponed.

XI. 2020-21 Wrap Up: This item will be included for further discussion on the next Agenda.

A. What did we do right?

-Starting departmental reports in January, when availability opened up.

-Accomplishing Budget Advocates' yearly goals of planning Budget Day and meeting with departments to create the White Paper, despite a lot of turnover and despite constraints due to the pandemic.

-Everyone responding when Budget Advocates were attacked last July.

-The Town Halls were fantastic, well-attended, timed just right for engagement and worked well through Zoom. More would be welcome.

-Budget Advocates managed to produce most of their normal product, despite the unprecedented climate of lockdown and everything moving online.

-Departments were examined critically, with attention to understanding detail about whether policies would make sense for stakeholders and whether Budget Advocates should participate.

-It's been helpful to have a monthly script for Budget Advocates to use when visiting Neighborhood Councils.

B. What do we need to improve?

-The decision to focus on writing reports that didn't focus on the departments, and then having to complete the departmental reports in a condensed period of time.

-More participation is needed from Neighborhood Councils, including more Budget Reps being assigned from each of the Neighborhood Councils.

-Budget Advocates should develop a list of responsibilities covered by each department.

-Faster turnaround is needed in filling vacancies when Budget Advocates resign.

-Members shouldn't be elected just to fill a slot. Candidates must be evaluated for their willingness to share the workload.

-Six to eight people carry 90% of the workload. More members need to be trained well enough to be able to participate fully.

-More Budget Advocate participation is needed with the Neighborhood Councils.

-Budget Advocates reports need to be included on Neighborhood Council Agendas.

-Budget Advocates need to set the tone of asking the tough questions to counteract the view some departments hold of being able to use the group as a megaphone to convey requests to the Mayor.

-The large number of grievances filed over the last year put Budget Advocates through a lot of extra work.

-If members have the time and ability to do so, they should help cover Neighborhood Council meetings of other regions that need support.

-A top-down outreach is needed in disseminating information from Budget Advocates as an organization, in addition to each region doing its own outreach.

-Any Budget Reps volunteering to read the Budget Advocate report to their Neighborhood Council need to coordinate with the member from their region in advance of doing so. Budget Reps can also help by making sure the Budget Advocate Report is on their Council's Agenda.

XII. Upcoming Town Halls: Preparation has started on planning for Town Halls over the next two quarters. Topics being considered are: homelessness, MRT, Universal Bank, and basic income with current price.

XIII. Adjournment: Jennifer adjourned the meeting at 9:03pm.

Next meeting Sept. 18th at 9:30am

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Minutes of Budget Advocate meeting #4 (Aug 30)

ELSPETH WEINGARTEN

Sept. 8, 2021