

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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1645 Corinth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Saturday, May 20, 2017, #21



Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Excused	9	Keith Kirkwood	Absent	5
Brian Allen	Present	2	Jon Liberman	Present by Phone	11
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Monica Massey	Absent	12
Julie Burg	Absent	10	Michael Menjivar	Present	4
Kevin Davis	Present by Phone	1	William Morrison	Present by Phone until 11	8
Adrienne Edwards	Present by Phone until 11	6	Carol Newman	Present	3
Amy Foell	Excused	7	Christopher Perry	Absent	9
Cindy Wu Freeman	Absent	2	Ava Post	Absent	6
Craig Goldfarb	Excused	12	Rick Ramirez	Present by Phone	1
Valaida Gory	Present	10	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Jay Handal	Present	11	Marcus Rodriguez	Present by Phone 10:15 am	7
Jeanette Hopp	Absent	4	Danielle Sandoval	Present by Phone	12
James Hornik	Present by Phone	6	Patrick Seamans	Absent	5
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Lynda Valencia	Absent	8
Ann Job	Absent	1	Krisna Velasco	Present by Phone 10:15 am	2
Howard Katchen	Present by Phone	4	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Present	3
Jacqueline Kennedy	Present by Phone	11	Vacant Seat		3
Brigette Kidd	Present by Phone	9	Vacant Seat		10

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Co-Chair Jay Handal.
2. **Roll Call** – There was a quorum with 21 board members present (see list above). Budget Representatives Wayne McGee from Harbor City, and Melissa Serrano from Mission Hills, and John Darnell, Neighborhood Council Advocate, from DONE were also present.
3. **Public Comment** – None
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #18 (April 3rd) Meeting #19 (April 15th) & Meeting #20 (May 6th)**
Motion by **Jack Humphreville** to approve the minutes from Meeting #18 (April 3rd), Meeting #19 (April 15th), and Meeting #20 (May 6th), seconded by **Jon Liberman**, and passed with 18 ayes (Allen, Amsden, Davis, Edwards, Gory, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Menjivar, Morrison, Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, and Sandoval), 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 not yet present (Rodriguez, Velasco, and Yvanek-Garb).
5. **Treasurer's Report and Motion to Approve** – Treasurer Howard Katchen
No updated report was circulated.

Update on issues with DONE. Treasurer Katchen reported that he had an agreement with Man-Qin He at DONE to receive updates at the beginning and middle of each month, however that has not happened. Jay asked John Darnell to follow up with DONE on Monday; Jay will then follow up with John and Grayce and, if necessary, Leyla Campos and Andrew Choi in the City Clerk's office.

6. **Report on funding of Budget Advocates by Neighborhood Councils** – Howard reported that he has requested regular updates on contributions by Neighborhood Councils, which he is also not receiving.
7. **Review and motion to submit BAs' response to the CAO's response on the White Paper** – Brian Allen submitted a point-by-point response to the CAO's comments, the gist of which was: 'In general the CAO did not evaluate the [Budget Advocates'] proposals but basically responded to the White Paper by stating what is being done but in most cases took no stand or added nothing to the conversation on the proposals. There is a need for the Budget Advocates to look deeper into some of the proposals to better define and present our suggestions.'

Brian has sent this document to Liz for full distribution. All Budget Advocates who met with any of the listed departments should review and e-mail their additional comments to Brian by Friday, May 26th. Prompt attention to this is important to allow Brian time to generate an amalgamated report which will be distributed to all by the end of the month for discussion and, potentially, a vote at the June 5th meeting with the final approved version to go to the CAO, City Council, and the press.

8. **Update on CityWatch article on City's need for a City Manager**
 - a. Jack and Brian will work on the City Manager article and include how a City Manager could oversee the processes of change so they are coordinated between Departments, address the need for organizational changes to stop inefficiencies and the need to implement better systems as well as providing proper oversight. Jon recommended the article emphasize that actions have consequences at all levels, the need for accountability and a change in philosophy.
 - b. Additionally, Jack and Brian have agreed to write an article on the importance of embedding Budget Advocates in Departments at the beginning of the budget process for next year, possibly as early as July and why the Council is stalling.
9. **Update and further assignments with regards to Budget Day (Saturday, June 24th) preparation and execution, specifically with regards to agenda, speakers, topics, outreach, logistics, facilitators, white board note takers and minute takers** –
 - a. Jay requested John get him a list of NC-appointed Budget Representative from DONE.
 - b. Most of the speakers for Budget Day are confirmed and Jay will have a timed-out agenda for the next meeting and speakers will be held to their allotted times.
 - c. Speakers set so far are Kerry Cavanaugh from the Los Angeles Times (as keynote speaker), Controller Ron Galperin (hopefully with a new talk addressing solutions), Councilmember Paul Krekorian and DONE General Manager Grayce Liu.
 - d. Mayor Garcetti and Zev Yaroslavsky will be out of town. Jay and Jack are still waiting for final responses from Herb Wesson and Austin Beutner. Jay will speak to Marcus about another possible speaker on budgeting and transparency, and Jack will explore inviting Larry Frank of LA Trade Tech.

10. Ex post facto consent approval for funding of:

Up to \$3,000 for note-takers at the Budget Day regional break-out sessions, up to \$500 for Channel 35 coverage (if needed), up to \$4,700 for the catering of breakfast and newly-elected Budget Advocate lunches, and up to \$500.00 for printing of materials for Budget Day

Motion by **Jack Humphreville** to approve the above funding, seconded by **Joanne Yvanek-Garb**, and passed with 21 ayes (Allen, Amsden, Davis, Edwards, Gory, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Menjivar, Morrison, Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Velasco, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, and 0 abstentions.

11. Determine what BAs want note-takers to be required to do and submit with the request

Note-takers need to focus on bullet points of the issues discussed and conclusions reached, not on who is speaking. Liz will send Sheryl the Regional Budget Day notes from regions 9 and 10 as a sample.

12. Discussion and possible motion to approve Budget Day hand-outs

Amy circulated drafts early this morning. Since most people have not had a chance to review, Liz will work with Amy to revise, and distribute for discussion at the June 5th meeting.

13. Discussion and possible motion to approve the Budget Advocates’ report on addressing the marijuana framework needed by the City, specifically with regards to costs and financing

- a. Discussion to date has primarily focused on gross revenues so, part of what we need to address in connection with the Budget, are the net revenues and how they will be applied to the costs.
- b. Danielle is to send Liz and Jay her report tonight to be distributed and discussed so the Budget Advocates can take a position at upcoming Rules Committee meetings at City Hall; Thursday, May 25th and Tuesday, June 6th, both at 6:00 pm. Brian and Danielle will try to attend, others welcome.
- c. The State is holding a public hearing for the purpose of public comment on the proposed medical licensing regulations on June 8th at the Junipero Serra Building, 320 West 4th Street from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

14. Discussion and possible motion to approve Budget Advocates’ request that no City entity be allowed to request NC funding for materials that should be provided for in their budget

Motion by Jack Humphreville to approve drafting a resolution that DONE advise all NCs that DONE will not approve NC funding for any City entity for materials that should be provided for within their budget, seconded by **Jon Liberman**, and passed with 20 ayes (Allen, Amsden, Davis, Edwards, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Menjivar, Morrison, Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Velasco, and Yvanek-Garb), 1 no (Gory), and 0 abstentions.

15. Continued discussion and possible motion regarding more equitable funding of Neighborhood Councils from the City’s General Fund

There has been a lot of discussion but not much action on this issue from various groups. Brian, Barbara and Liz will formulate some concrete options to bring to the June 5th meeting.

16. Additional discussion on attracting and educating future Budget Representatives and Budget Advocates. Request that all Budget Advocates research and submit potential candidates

Discussion revolved around the fact that both Budget Advocates and Budget Representatives need to know more about the City budget and the responsibilities they are taking on before Budget Day and before the Budget Advocate elections.

Jay suggested having a Budget 101 training and information session for incoming Budget Representatives and Advocates. There is not enough time to set this up for as many as 200 people before Budget Day this year, but next year’s Budget Advocates should plan on a half-day session once all the Budget Representatives have been appointed and shortly prior to Budget Day.

Marcus suggested it be coordinated through Civic University and will contact the organizers to explore possibilities.

Motion by **Barbara Ringuette** to strongly recommend next year’s Budget Advocates hold a Budget 101 training and information session for the FY 2018-2019 incoming Budget Representatives and Advocates prior to the 2018 Budget Day. Seconded by **Liz Amsden** and passed with 19 ayes (Allen, Amsden, Davis, Edwards, Gory, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Menjivar, Morrison, Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Velasco, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, and 0 abstentions (Edwards and Morrison having dropped off the call).

17. Discussion on a Budget Advocate-presented Congress of Neighborhoods workshop embracing diversity (Congress theme) and budget concerns/fiscal responsibility. Suggestions for snappy titles gratefully appreciated

One suggestion was that the incoming Budget Advocates use the Congress workshop as an opportunity to rehearse Budget101 – addressing the City’s budget procedures and what Budget Representatives and Advocates do and how they can make a difference. This would be targeted to Budget Representatives but would be open to any interested stakeholder. A possible title (and hook to generate interest) would be Jay’s line of: ‘Budgets aren’t sexy, but...’.

18. Status of Budget Advocates marketing campaign through CityWatch

Adrienne submitted an article on the upcoming Budget Day to CityWatch yesterday but requested help in writing the last five articles.

19. Housekeeping – File drawers still need to be moved to the West LA office before moving Budget Advocate assets from DONE. Brian will continue to research a video option for those calling in remotely to Budget Advocate meetings.

20. New Business

- a. The CLA's report on the City's budget contained elements that parallel the Budget Advocates' concerns about pension costs, the liability claims, and labor agreements.
- b. Jack pointed out that the City Council has approved a fantasy budget in that, despite claims and implications, is not balanced and, furthermore, does not address the shortfall and existing judgment liabilities already acknowledged in the current year's budget.
- c. Although the City Charter does not mandate a balanced budget, it is good fiscal policy and next year's White Paper should emphasize concrete suggestions not only on why investments in our City's future are needed but also with specifics on how to fund them.
- d. Region 11 stakeholders requested their Regional Budget Day notes which have never been delivered. Jay will follow up with Apple One.

21. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am. The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Monday, June 5th in the DONE offices at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates