

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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200 North Spring Street, Suite 2005, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Monday May 7, 2018 – 7 pm

Meeting # 20 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Alé	Absent	9	Janet Kim	Resigned	7
Brian Allen	Present	2	Melanie Labrecque	Excused	12
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Jon Liberman	Present	11
Glenn Bailey	By phone	2	Michael Menjivar	Absent	4
Freddy Cupen-Ames	Present	4	William Morrison	Absent	8
Carol Derby-David	Present	10	Carol Newman	Present	3
Kevin Davis	By phone (8:10)	1	Robert Newman	Present	6
John DiGregorio	Present	1	Christopher Perry	By phone	9
Adrienne Nicole Edwards	Absent	6	Rick Ramirez	By phone	1
Valaida Gory	By phone (7:03)	10	Barbara Ringuette	Absent	7
Diedra Greenaway	Present	2	Estuardo Ruano	By phone	7
Jay Handal	Absent	11	Danielle Sandoval	Absent	12
James Hornik	By phone (in person 7:08)	6	Patrick Seamans	By phone (7:10)	5
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Eleanor Smith	Present	10
Howard Katchen	By phone (7:15)	4	Dr. Princess Sykes	Present (7:42)	12
Jacqueline Le Kennedy	By phone	11	Lynda Valencia	By phone	8
Oren Katz	By phone	5	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Present	3
Brigette Kidd	By phone	9	OPEN		3

1. Call to order- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Co-Chair Liz Amsden.
2. Roll Call- A quorum of 21 Budget Advocates was present as well as John Darnell, DONE's Neighborhood Council Advocate.

BA ITEM 2 Roll Call		
Present-21	Excused-1	Absent – 12
Allen, Amsden, Bailey, Cupen-Ames, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Greenaway, Hornik, Humphreville, Kennedy, Katz, Kidd, Liberman, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ruano, Smith, Valencia, Yvanek-Garb	Labrecque	Ale, Davis, Edwards, Handal, Gory, Katchen, Menjivar, Morrison, Ringuette, Sandoval, Seamans, Sykes

3. Public Comment on items NOT on the agenda (max: 10 minutes/2 minutes per person). No comment
7:03 pm Valaida Gory joined the meeting.
4. Approval of minutes from Meetings #18 (April 2nd) and #19 (April 21st).

BA ITEM 4 Approval of minutes #18 Move: Amsden Second: Yvanek-Garb		
Yes –20	No	Abstain-2
Allen, Amsden, Bailey, Cupen-Ames, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Gory, Greenaway, Hornik, Humphreville, Katz, Kidd, Liberman, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ruano, Smith, Valencia, Yvanek-Garb		Kennedy, Ramirez

BA ITEM 4 Approval of minutes #19 Move: Amsden Second: Yvanek-Garb		
Yes –16	No	Abstain-6
Allen, Amsden, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Gory, Greenaway, Hornik, Humphreville, Kennedy, Katz, Kidd, C. Newman, Perry, Ruano, Smith, Yvanek-Garb		Bailey, Cupen-Ames, Liberman, R. Newman, Ramirez, Valencia

5. Treasurer’s report & motion to approve. Tabled until the Treasurer’s arrival.
6. Motion to approve an additional \$5,000 for a total of \$10,000 for Budget Day on an as-needed basis. Jon Liberman asked if the additional funds were needed. Liz Amsden advised that catering alone on each of the past two Budget Days came to almost \$5,000.

BA ITEM 6 Approval of an additional \$5,000 for Budget Day Move: Yvanek-Garb Second: Humphreville		
Yes – 21	No-1	Abstain
Amsden, Bailey, Cupen-Ames, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Gory, Greenaway, Hornik, Humphreville, Katz, Kidd, Kennedy, Liberman, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ruano, Smith, Valencia, Yvanek-Garb	Allen	

7. Status of election / replacement of Budget Advocates in Regions 3 and 5. Liz Amsden stated that the two possible appointees for Region 3 are not available. The Budget Advocate vacancy for Region 5 has been replaced by Oren Katz. Janet Kim had resigned from Region 7 as a Budget Advocate. Jon Liberman asked if the Budget Advocates that will be appointed at this late stage will be grandfathered in. Brian Allen thought that those Budget Advocates would have to be reelected at Budget Day. Glenn Bailey made a motion that the Budget Advocates not appoint any more Budget Advocates until Budget Day.
- 7:10 pm Patrick Seamans joined the meeting.
- 7:15 pm Howard Katchen joined the meeting.

BA ITEM 7 Motion to defer appointing Budget Advocates until Budget Day Move: Bailey Second: Katchen		
Yes – 24	No	Abstain
Allen, Amsden, Bailey, Cupen-Ames, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Gory, Greenaway, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Katz, Kidd, Kennedy, Liberman, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ruano, Seamans, Smith, Valencia, Yvanek-Garb		

5. Treasurer’s report & motion to approve.
 - (a) Report-back on funding from Neighborhood Councils
 - (b) Report-back on getting Man-Qin to be more responsive

Christopher Perry asked if there was an itemized statement for all the expenditures and was advised the Treasurer kept back up and to contact Howard Katchen for additional information. Liz Amsden asked how much of the committed funds for Regional Budget Day remained. Howard advised that, except for \$88, the account could be zeroed out. The next report will reflect this.

BA ITEM 5 Motion to approve Treasurer’s report Move: Liberman Second: C Newman		
Yes – 23	No- 1	Abstain
Amsden, Bailey, Cupen-Ames, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Gory, Greenaway, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Katz, Kidd, Kennedy, Liberman, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ruano, Seamans, Smith, Valencia, Yvanek-Garb	Allen	

(a) Report-back on funding from Neighborhood Councils- Howard Katchen reported that the City Clerk will accumulate the funds and then DONE will deposit them into the Budget Advocate account at the beginning of the new fiscal year, but were not prepared to give a statement on funds submitted until the end of the current fiscal year.

In response to a question on what the Budget Advocates use the funds for, Howard Katchen advised the funds are used for Budget Day, printing of the White Paper, CityWatch, Survey Money, and other expenses. The Financial Reports are posted on the website if anyone wants to see a breakdown. Glenn Bailey raised the concern of funds not being credited to the Budget Advocate account on a timely basis. Last year there was an issue with funds taken from the current instead of previous fiscal year but DONE resolved the matter by issuing a credit to that Neighborhood Council.

(b) Report-back on getting Man-Qin to be more responsive- Howard Katchen will meet with Man-Qin, Armando Ruiz and Grayce Liu to request more timely reporting so the Budget Advocate books will sync.

8. Status appointment of Budget Advocate Secretary for balance of FY 2017-18. Rick Ramirez will take over as Secretary through the end of the current term.
9. Status Budget Advocate attendance compliance. Tabled until next meeting.
10. Report-back on letter to the Mayor concerning the Budget Advocates’ exclusion from the City Council Chambers for the State-of-the-City address and confirming meetings with the Mayor and his budget team going forward. Tabled until the next meeting.

7:42 pm Dr. Princess Sykes joined the meeting.

11. Report-back on working with DONE on a presentation on the Budget Advocates to be included as a featured component of every DONE training for new Neighborhood Council board members. Brian Allen had spoken with Grayce Liu and she has agreed but requested an outline from the Budget Advocates. Barbara Ringuette will chair a group including John DiGregorio, Carol Newman and Brian Allen to develop the outline.
12. Report-back on presentations to the Budget and Finance Committee. This was cancelled when the Budget Advocate presentation was moved to the afternoon of May 3rd and the three of those who were planning to present were unavailable. Committee Chairman Krekorian apologized and committed to rescheduling or having the Budget Advocates present to the full City Council. Jon Liberman, Brian Allen, and Joanne Yvanek-Garb were in attendance that afternoon and noted that the current process is flawed with public comment at the beginning of the session instead of with the department presentations. There was a suggestion that the Budget Advocates should present at the beginning of the Committee’s hearings. There were 165 report-back requests from the Budget and

Finance Committee on 719 questions. Brian Allen, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Rick Ramirez, John DiGregorio and Jon Liberman will work with Glenn Bailey to review and prioritize those the Budget Advocates should address.

7:55 pm Christopher Perry was asked to hang up

13. Report-back on getting Neighborhood Councils to appoint Budget Representatives prior to Budget Day. Report back on distribution of flyers. Liz Amsden asked all Budget Advocates to actively recruit Budget Representatives including advising Neighborhood Councils to reach out to stakeholders since board members often have too many commitments. John DiGregorio will work on developing a more eye-catching flyer.
14. Budget Advocates' reports for Neighborhood Councils and Budget Representatives. Budget Advocates should be attending Neighborhood Council meetings and give their report along with other elected representatives. If there are issues, please advise the co-chairs.

8:10 pm Kevin Davis joined the meeting.

15. Discussion and assignment of responsibilities for Budget Day
 - (a) Press list update - Jack Humphreville gave a list of 500 names to Jay Handal.
 - (b) Publicizing of Budget Day – need to get the Save-the-Date flyer to DONE for the newsletter as well as to Jay to send to all Neighborhood Council board members. Need to send Freddy the information to create the full flyer. Need to build interest in how the City budget affects services.
 - (c) Status event portal for registration - Freddy Cupen-Ames suggested that \$59 be spent for Snafflz, a registration program for Budget Day that will also generate badges. Need to address if it or Eventbrite would be the most appropriate. No need for a vote on funds since it would come out of the Budget Day allocation.

8:35 pm Jack Humphreville left the meeting.

- (d) Working with Council District offices – Only 3 Budget Advocates assigned to the various Council Districts have sent in the contact information previously requested. The other 11 need to get the information in asap so John DiGregorio can promote Budget Day through the Councilmembers' newsletters. Joanne Yvanek-Garb volunteered to take over Region 3 following the departure of the assigned Budget Advocate.
 - (e) Logistics for set up and on the day – John DiGregorio and Barbara Ringuette will compile a list of what is needed for Budget Day.

Item 18 (d) was moved up due to the imminent departure of Deidra Greenaway.

Diedra Greenaway advised an article on Lean Six Sigma was featured in City Watch and people could read it to learn more.

8:52 pm Diedra Greenaway left the meeting.

8:52 pm Liz Amsden left the meeting and there was a short recess until 8:55 pm.

16. What visual assists should Budget Advocates develop moving forward? Tabled.

17. Status CityWatch articles

- (a) On Budget Advocates’ concerns about the Mayor’s budget – Not addressed
- (b) On results of Budget Advocates’ survey - Freddy Cupen-Ames will send the survey results to the co-chairs for review prior to dissemination.
- (c) By Budget Advocates on related and other issues - Bridget Kidd’s article on cannabis was published. To access CityWatch, people can subscribe through social media or go to citywatchla.com.

18. Hot issues

- (a) Status of obtaining information on the RecyclA contracts and how to evaluate (Jack) Tabled
- (b) Status on tracking the \$35M income from the trash haulers (Jack / Brian) Tabled
- (c) The need for the City to fund comprehensive emergency planning and procedures before the next emergency - Barbara Ringuette stated that it is a moot point as the current budget does not include the necessary funding. Part of the plan is to have neighborhoods take over certain responsibilities but there is concern that they don’t have the training or expertise to handle a disaster.
- (d) Discussion on Lean Six Sigma and how it could be the saving grace for Los Angeles was moved to after 15 (e).

19. New business.

- (a) Howard Katchen inquired about the distribution of the White Paper to the Neighborhood Councils. Brian Allen stated that Region 2 had received their White Papers. Budget Advocates were asked to confirm distribution of the White Papers to the Neighborhood Councils to Jay Handal.
- (b) Brigette Kidd suggested creating an Exit Survey for departing Budget Advocates to find out why people leave.

20. Adjournment.

BA ITEM 20 Motion to adjourn 9:10 PM Move: Liberman Second: Allen		
Yes – 21	No	Abstain
Allen, Amsden, Bailey, Cupen-Ames, Davis, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Gory, Katchen, Katz, Kidd, Kennedy, Liberman, C. Newman, R. Newman, Ramirez, Ruano, Seamans, Smith, Valencia, Yvanek-Garb		

Our next scheduled meeting will be on Saturday, May 19th at 10 am at the West Los Angeles Municipal Building.