

# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

[www.ncbala.com](http://www.ncbala.com)

1645 Corinth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Saturday, November 18, 2017

10:00 am – 12 noon

## Meeting #10 Minutes



Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Present by phone	9	Brigette Kidd	Absent	9
Brian Allen	Present	2	Janet Kim	Present by phone	7
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Melanie Labrecque	Excused	12
Glenn Bailey	Present	2	Jon Liberman	Present	11
Agnes Copeland	Excused	5	Michael Menjivar	Absent	4
Freddy Cupen-Ames	Present by phone	4	William Morrison	Present by phone	8
Carol Derby-David	Present	10	Carol Newman	Present	3
Kevin Davis	Present by phone 10:10	1	Robert Newman	Present by phone	6
John DiGregorio	Present 10:10	1	Christopher Perry	Absent	9
Adrienne Nicole Edwards	Present by phone	6	Rick Ramirez	Present by phone	1
Don Evans	Present 10:10	3	Barbara Ringuette	Present by phone	7
Valaida Gory	Excused	10	Estuardo Ruano	Absent	7
Diedra Greenaway	Present by phone	2	Patrick Seamans	Absent	5
Jay Handal	Present	11	Eleanor Smith	Absent	10
James Hornik	Present	6	Dr. Princess Sykes	Absent	12
Jack Humphreville	Present 10:10	5	Lynda Valencia	Present by phone	8
Howard Katchen	Present by phone 10:10	4	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Present at 10:30	3
Jacqueline Le Kennedy	Present by phone	11	Vacant Seat		12

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by Chair Jay Handal.
2. **Roll Call**: A quorum of 25 board members was present (see list above). Budget Representatives Garry Fordyce from North Hills West and Hank Williams from Olympic Park were also present along with John Darnell, DONE’s Neighborhood Council Advocate.
3. **Public Comment** – None
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #9 (November 6<sup>th</sup>)** – Motion by **Howard Katchen** to approve the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as corrected, seconded by **Jon Liberman**, and passed with 22, 0 no, 2 abstentions, and 1 not yet present.
5. **Treasurer’s Report and Motion to Approve. Update on issues with DONE** – Howard Katchen, Treasurer
  - a. Motion by **Howard Katchen** to approve the Treasurers Report, second by **Jon Liberman**, and passed with 23 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Cupen-Ames, Davis, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Edwards, Evans, Greenaway, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kim, Liberman, Morrison, C. Newman, R. Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, and Valencia), 0 no, 1 abstention (Bailey), and 1 not yet present (Yvanek-Garb).
  - b. Howard to follow up with Man-Qin on payments for Lloyd Staffing.

**6. Status Region 12 Budget Advocates**

Jay talked to BONC about the challenges of Region 12, waiting on call from Harbor Area commissioner Ray Regalado to discuss.

**7. Working with Budget Representatives and Neighborhood Councils**

- a. Liz to send reminder with link for people to update google doc on NC visits by BAs. Glenn will bring a list of NCs not visited to next meeting.
- b. Issues to report from NC board meetings attended by BAs – Concern about NBC report on LA public library security. Jon to contact LAPL and get their input. Liz suggested having a look at libraries that have been more successful at dealing with the issues.
- c. Status website/Facebook page – Danielle Sandoval is working on getting John D. added as administrator.
- d. Update on CityWatch articles – John D. has submitted two articles and is working on others as well as video content for CityWatch. Will try and get the LAPL's and LAPD's response to the NBC news story.
- e. [LawMaker.io](http://LawMaker.io), a crowd sourcing legislation website, is inviting policy submissions. John D. and Jack will draft some City budget related policies including government transparency to be posted by November 29<sup>th</sup> and circulate a link to the Budget Advocates to vote on. Jack will include the link in an upcoming CityWatch article. Potential submissions discussed were:
  - i. Embedding Budget Advocates in departments and the Mayor's budget team
  - ii. Monthly meeting with the Mayor's budget staff and Budget & Finance Committee.
  - iii. Having open meetings with Council scheduled on evenings/weekends so people who work more traditional hours can come;
  - iv. Accrual budgeting.

**MOTION** by Jack Humphreville to make submissions for entry into the 'Propose Your Policy' contest on the [LawMaker.io](http://LawMaker.io) website, seconded by Joanne Yvanek-Garb, and passed with 25 ayes, 0 noes, and 0 abstentions.

**8. Update on Regional Budget Days**

- a. Will be January 20<sup>th</sup>. Locations MUST have wi-fi. Joanne will handle Regions 1,2,3 & 4, John D. Regions 5 & 6, Jay Region 11. BAs in Regions 7 & 8, 9 & 10, and 12 to delegate someone to find a venue by next meeting.
- b. Publicizing will be addressed in more detail at the next meeting.
- c. A Budget Advocate will moderate following pre-recorded messages from Paul Krekorian, someone from the CAO's office and someone from the Mayor's budget team. Focus will be on feeding back stakeholder concerns from Budget Day, obtaining further input including a short survey in English and Spanish.
- d. John D and Barbara will work with John Darnell to get Councilmember Krekorian to record a 5-minute introduction to play at each Regional Budget Day along with 10-minute pieces from the CAO's office (possibly Jacob Wexler) and the Mayor's budgeting team.
- e. Need to develop a survey to get a sense of people's concerns that can be addressed with the electeds.
- f. John D. to check with Stephen Box on where to rent tablets like those used in the elections so the survey can be administered and tabulated electronically.

**9. Bylaws Committee report – Carol Newman**

The committee is meeting at noon today to discuss further business.

**10. Status of proposed amendments to Article III, Sections 2 and 3 of the Budget Advocates' Bylaws**

- a. Following discussion, **Motion** by **Glenn Bailey** to amend Article III, Section 2 to state '*effective at Annual Budget Day in June of 2018*', not '*effective immediately*', seconded by **Brian Allen**, which failed with 1 aye, 24 noes, and 0 abstentions.
- b. **Motion** by **Carol Newman** to approve Article III, Section 2 as presented, seconded by **Jon Liberman**, and passed with 24 ayes, 1 no, and 0 abstentions.

**11. Further discussion on and possible motion to approve a Grievance Portal for the NCBALA website** – Lynda Valencia

Lynda will work with the Budget Advocates' webmaster to set up a prototype grievance portal which will not go live until approved.

**12. Follow up on Early White Paper** – Jack Humphreville

Jack will draft a letter to City Council, the Mayor, CAO, all elected officials, all neighborhood councils, and the press to accompany the release of the early White Paper and send to Jay to be circulated.

**13. White Paper update**

- a. Jack will ask the White Paper committee members for a volunteer(s) to ensure reports come in, and to proof and standardize reports.
- b. All department reports are to be submitted by the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- c. First draft of the White Paper itself to be circulated for review and approval at the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting so can become part of the discussion at the Regional Budget Days on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**14. CAO report back** – Barbara Ringuette

- a. Excellent content; video of session will be posted on the NCBALA website.
- b. CAO training part 2 will be held Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm at the DONE offices.
- c. Should be held for every Budget Advocate at the beginning of the term.

**15. Discussion on transparency**

- a. Several departments expressed interest during meetings in having a Budget Advocate embedded in their budgeting process
- b. Some department heads are frustrated with the politics of City Hall, they are trying to run a business
- c. Need to get Neighborhood Councils to pass concerns to their Budget Representative and on to Budget Advocates to forward to the appropriate person
- d. Need to get a list of contact numbers on specific service issues to send to Neighborhood Councils so they can address local issues themselves on a more timely basis.

**16. Housekeeping**

- a. Parking Passes – Anyone who is still having problems with parking passes should e-mail Liz and she will follow up with DONE. If you are already dealing with DONE on the issue, please cc Liz so she can also follow up.
- b. Business cards – Jay checked on Friday and they are still not ready.

**17. New Business**

- a. Jack reported that, as a result of a 13% return on invested assets, the unfunded pension liability (based on the market value of the assets) for the City's two pensions decreased from \$9.6 billion (77% funded) to \$8.9 billion (80% funded). However, assuming a more realistic investment rate assumption of 6.25%, the unfunded liability remains at \$15 billion (71% funded).
- b. Nazario Saucedo, director of the Bureau of Street Services, announced his retirement but will stay on a year to ease the transition.
- c. There will be significant income from the Metro tax and CA state gas tax; BAs should ensure these are used for designated purposes only and not channeled into the General Fund.

**18. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the DONE offices.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom  
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates