

# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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Neighborhood Empowerment Office, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Suite 2005, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Monday, March 6, 2017

7:00 pm

## Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	By phone	9	Brigette Kidd	Present (7:15)	9
Brian Allen	Present	2	Keith Kirkwood	Absent	5
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Jon Liberman	Present (7:10)	11
Julie Burg	By phone	10	Monica Massey	Absent	12
Kjiel Carlson	Paternity leave	10	Michael Menjivar	Present	4
Kevin Davis	Absent	1	William Morrison	By phone (7:20) Present (7:45)	8
Adrienne Edwards	By phone	6	Carol Newman	By phone (7:10)	3
Amy Foell	By phone	7	Christopher Perry	Absent	9
Cindy Wu Freeman	Absent	2	Ava Post	Absent	6
Craig Goldfarb	Absent	12	Rick Ramirez	By Phone	1
Valaida Gory	By phone	10	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Jay Handal	By phone	11	Marcus Rodriguez	By phone	7
Jeanette Hopp	By phone (7:40)	4	Danielle Sandoval	By phone (7:25)	12
James Hornik	Present	6	Patrick Seamans	Excused	5
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Lynda Valencia	Present	8
Ann Job	Present (7:40)	1	Krisna Velasco	Absent	2
Howard Katchen	By phone	4	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Present	3
Jacqueline Kennedy	By phone	11	Vacant Seat		3

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Co-Chair Liz Amsden.
2. **Roll Call**: A quorum of 25 board members was present (see list above).
3. **Public Comment** – None
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #12 (January 9<sup>th</sup>) & Meeting #15 (February 18<sup>th</sup>)**
  - a. Approval of the minutes for Meeting #12 tabled for review of changes.
  - b. Ivette requested the minutes for meeting #15, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2017, be revised to indicate that the amendment in Item 17 was her motion with Brigette as second. Liz to revise. Motion by **Jay Handal** to approve as amended, seconded by **Barbara Ringuette**, and passed with 18 yeases (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Burg, Edwards, Foell, Gory, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Menjivar, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 7 not yet present (Hopp, Job, Kidd, Liberman, Morrison, Newman, and Sandoval).
5. **Treasurer's Report** - Howard Katchen, Treasurer  
The purchase card was shut off due to DONE not paying the balance due which required various Budget Advocates to use their own money to buy materials for Regional Budget Day. The card has now been paid and the card is supposed to be working again.

Howard was also advised that Budget Advocate funds were used by the Congress of Neighborhoods in 2013 when the accounts were merged. Man-Qin has advised that the accounts were again merged by the CAO. Howard to address with Man-Qin.

Howard was also advised that Neighborhood Councils wishing to donate funds to the Budget Advocates must now write a check to the City of Los Angeles for the amount and submit it along with the resolution.

Motion by **Joanne Yvanek-Garb** to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by **Jon Liberman**, and passed with 22 yeses (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Burg, Edwards, Foell, Gory, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Menjvar, Morrison, Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 not yet present (Hopp, Job, and Sandoval).

**6. Reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with Regional Budget Day**

Motion by **Jay Handal** to approve reimbursement of Lynda Valencia (\$63.80), Jon Liberman (\$51.31), Danielle Sandoval (\$161.17), Howard Katchen (\$691.42), and Brigitte Kidd (\$90.62) for out-of-pocket Regional Budget Day costs subject to the submission of copies of the receipts and, when charged to credit cards, the applicable bank statements (other charges and all but the last 4 digits of the card number can be redacted). Seconded by **Joanne Yvanek-Garb**, and passed with 22 yeses (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Burg, Edwards, Foell, Gory, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Menjivar, Morrison, Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 not yet present (Hopp, Job, and Sandoval).

Howard to follow up with Man-Qin to ensure people are reimbursed in a timely manner

**7. Update on Replacement of Budget Advocate for Region 3** – Jay Handal

Given there has been no response from persons suggested, **Jay Handal** made a motion to leave the seat vacant until Budget Day this summer, which was seconded by **Howard Katchen**, and passed with 22 yeses (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Burg, Edwards, Foell, Gory, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Menjivar, Morrison, Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 not yet present (Hopp, Job, and Sandoval)

**8. Report-backs on the Regional Budget Days**

Joanne Yvanek-Garb reported 23 attendees initially for the Regions 1, 2, 3 & 4 program, although 3 left.

Adrienne Edwards had 15 or more attendees for Regions 5 & 6, and said speakers Matt Szabo and Ron Galperin were very good. Jack pushed Galperin to admit that the City was expecting a \$250 million "gap" this fiscal year.

Lynda Valencia reported a poor turnout for Regions 7 & 8 but those who came enjoyed Controller Ron Galperin's presentation on the Control Panel.

Valaida Gory had over 20 attendees for Regions 9 & 10 who wanted to know more about budget process. The roundtable went well and Valaida received positive feedback and acknowledgement.

Jon Liberman and Jacqueline Kennedy had only 3 people turn up in Region 11, one being a homeless person who gave them a different perspective on the issues discussed..

Danielle Sandoval had a speaker on marijuana regulation for Region 12 and a great discussion with approximately 20 attendees. She asked stakeholders to write their revenue ideas and services concerns on index cards.

Suggestions for future Regional Budget Days included: involving the public through radio shows or internet (Jon), need to have/publicize bigger name speakers (Joanne), and scheduling them after the City's budget is announced (Jack)

**9. Presentation of White Paper to the Mayor.**

The meeting with the Mayor is scheduled from 12:45 to 1:45 on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> in the Mayor's press room. Jay and Liz will give a brief introduction and turn it over to Jack to present the White Paper and the Budget Advocates' concerns about the City budget. Those who can attend will meet at 12:15 pm in the hall in front of the Mayor's office.

**10. Status White Paper, Department reports, Recommendations for the CAO**

Suggestions were made by several Budget Advocates to improve the current draft of the White Paper and recommendations. Jack will input tonight and circulate tomorrow Motion by **Liz Amsden** to approve the White Paper and Recommendations as amended plus the Department Reports, seconded by **Brian Allen**, and passed with 25 yeases (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Burg, Edwards, Foell, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Hornik, Humphreville, Job, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Menjivar, Morrison, Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, and 0 abstentions.

**11. Outreach** – Once the White Paper is delivered, Budget Advocates need to get the White Paper out to all the Neighborhood Councils and have them pass a motion in support. Neighborhood Councils cannot make changes to the White Paper but we would welcome them adding their own recommendations. Jay will load the White Paper, the revenue suggestions and the Department Reports on thumb drives to be distributed to the Mayor's office, the Controller and Councilmembers as well as Ken Draper and other news outlets.

**12. Status of CityWatch/Budget Advocates marketing campaign**

- a. Adrienne Edwards and Brigitte Kidd are working on new stories.
- b. Brigitte reported David Goldstein ran a follow up story about the traffic cam operating when the light was green but didn't give the Budget Advocates credit for the story.
- c. Adrienne is trying to ensure NCs and BAs receive credit for story ideas in the future.
- d. Adrienne recommends developing a form and reaching out to all Neighborhood Councils to get their suggestions.
- e. Jay and Adrienne will work together on a banner look for CityWatch.

**13. Stakeholder Survey update** Jay reports that there have never been more than 385 people replying to any survey and he is disappointed in the response. Jeanette requested Jay verify the problem of some stakeholders not being able access the surveys has been resolved.

**14. Report on addressing the marijuana framework needed by the City with regards to its finances.** Postponed. Liz to send Danielle a list of which Budget Advocates volunteered for the committee.

**15. Update on DWP settlement on the transfer tax** – No new information. The DWP is due to deliver their budget to the City on March 30<sup>th</sup> and it will have to address the issue.

**16. Update on fiscal impact of potential withholding of federal funds from Los Angeles due to declaration of "Sanctuary City" status** – Need to include this request in the White Paper as no decision should be made without everyone – Councilmembers and stakeholders – knowing the financial impact.

**17. Housekeeping** – Status speakerphone for next West LA meeting – still in process.

**18. New Business**

- a. Jack suggested that we develop a Budget 101 series to post on YouTube which will preserve the institutional memory of our current Budget Advocates.

- b. This could also draw on outside expertise such as a cut-down version of Ron Galperin's Control Panel presentation.
- c. The Budget Advocates should set up a committee to discuss alternate outreach and training proposals for Neighborhood Council treasurers as well as interested stakeholders. Also how to attract more people to Budget Advocates, especially younger people.
- d. Danielle advised that cut-off for funding for Neighborhood Councils will be June 10<sup>th</sup> this fiscal year. A Funding item will be placed on the next agenda since Budget Advocates will need to request monies well in advance.

**19. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next scheduled meeting of the Budget Advocates will be at 10 am on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at the West LA Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom  
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates