

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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**West Los Angeles Civic Center
1645 Corinth Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025
Saturday, August 18th, 2018 at 10 AM**

Meeting #4 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Kevin Davis	Present	1	Tony Michaelis	Present	7
John DiGregorio	Present	1	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Rick Ramirez	Present	1	Connie Acosta	Absent	7
Brian Allen	Present	2	Liz Amsden	Present	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	2	Jamie Tijerina	Present	8
Diedra Greenaway	Present	2	Jose Orozco Pelico	Absent	8
Dan Burt	Present	3	Chelsea McElwee	Present	9
Carol Newman	Present	3	Evelyn Valdez	Absent	9
Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Present	3	Jose Medina	Present (10:44)	9
VACANT	VACANT	4	Carol Derby-David	Absent	10
Howard Katchen	Present	4	Erick Morales	Present	10
Brandon Pender	Present (10:32)	4	KJ Clark	Present (10:50)	10
Jack Humphreville	Excused	5	Jay Handal	Present	11
Jessica Salans	Absent	5	Maureen Crowe	Present (10:15)	11
Patrick Seamans	Absent	5	Jon Liberman	Present	11
James Hornik	Present	6	Melanie Labrecque	Present	12
Adrienne Nicole Edwards	Present (10:11)	6	Sierra Gothe	Absent	12
Faalaniga "Nina" Smith	Absent	6	Dr. Princess Sykes	Absent	12

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM by Co-Chair Jay Handal.
2. Roll Call: A quorum of 21 Budget Advocates were present at the start of the meeting. Throughout the meeting, 4 more Budget Advocates joined for a total of 25. Julien Antelin from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Mr. Gary Fordyce of North Hills West, Ms. Pat Crone of North Hills West, and Mr. Randy Waller of Westlake South participated in the meeting.
3. Public Comment: Mr. Fordyce introduced Ms. Crone, North Hills West NC's Budget Representative, to the Budget Advocates.
4. Approval of Meeting #3 Minutes: This item was postponed for the next meeting.
5. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Katchen reported that he is working on obtaining information from DONE to create financial reports for FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19. Approval of Treasurer's Reports was postponed for a future meeting.
6. Bylaws Report: Parliamentarian Newman reported that the first round of changes to the Bylaws would concern any potential name change to the Budget Advocates organization.

7. Housekeeping: Co-Chair Amsden reported that parking passes are currently being processed. DONE will not issue more passes than are currently issued for the Budget Advocates, including passes not returned by past members. Mr. Bailey requested the Budget Advocates to consider requesting 36 parking passes separate from the 98 neighborhood councils to ease administrative burdens.

MOTION: Mr. Bailey moved to have the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates formally request 36 parking passes from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to be kept separate from the parking passes for the 98 neighborhood councils in Los Angeles. Ms. Crowe seconded the motion.

SUPPORT: 23 votes

OPPOSE: 0 votes

ABSTAIN: 0 votes

MOTION PASSED

Secretary Morales sent out an Excel file with information for NCBA business cards. Ms. Greenaway reported not receiving the file. Secretary Morales reported that he would resend the file.

8. Plans to Meet with Mayor Garcetti: Co-Chair Handal reported that he is waiting on hearing back from the Mayor's Office about meeting soon.
9. Update on City Councilmembers' Service Priorities: Co-Chair Amsden reported that four liaisons have yet to provide contact information for their assigned Council Office. Liaisons are encouraged to reach out to the respective Council Office's policy staff for service priorities.
10. Questions and Answers on Department Meetings: Co-Chair Amsden informed that all committees need to meet with their departments before the end of October to maximize our window of opportunity on affecting the budget. All department meetings must be scheduled before September 7th.
11. White Paper Committees: Co-Chair Amsden requested that every committee inform her of who will schedule the meeting and who will provide the initial draft of the report. A draft of the committee's recommendations for the White Paper must be provided by October 31st.
12. White Paper Logistics: Co-Chair Handal asked the Budget Advocates to think about a theme for this year's White Paper. There was short discussion of possible themes. Some Budget Advocates expressed concern that setting a theme at this moment was premature. No theme was decided upon.
13. Preliminary White Papers: Co-Chair Amsden discussed the idea of having the Budget Advocates write one page essays on specific issues that affect the budget. The content for the Preliminary White Papers can be drawn from department meetings as they are held. The short essays could also be posted to CityWatch and potentially increase interest in budget concerns.

The Budget Advocates also discussed other ways to attract attention to our work. This included a viral campaign, submitting Community Impact Statements on relevant Council

Files, and adding regional concerns to the White Paper. Mr. Burt suggested putting out press releases during the budget process. Parliamentarian Newman volunteered to contact Pat Kramer of Sunland-Tujunga for possible assistance on press releases.

14. CityWatch Articles: Vice-Chair DiGregorio requested that the NCBA's submitting 500-word articles for publication to CityWatch on behalf of the Budget Advocates. Mr. Burt suggested writing the articles to include the eventual theme to maximize the effect of the eventual White Paper.
15. Formation of Committee for Stakeholder Involvement: Vice-Chair DiGregorio informed that the committee would work via email before meeting this week. He encouraged all committee volunteers to submit ideas to engage stakeholders prior to the meeting. Co-Chair Handal suggested that the Budget Advocates work with the neighborhood council alliances in each area to maximize our engagement.
16. Report back from Joanne Yvanek-Garb on working with City Clerk's Office: Ms. Yvanek-Garb informed that she had yet to receive an answer from the City Clerk on using their scanners for a Budget Advocates survey. Co-Chair Handal suggested Ms. Yvanek-Garb contact Mr. Chris Garcia in the office for an immediate answer.
17. Survey of Services Planning: A survey will be conducted to measure how stakeholders view their services. Vice-Chair DiGregorio suggested that the survey allow participants to rate certain city departments. Parliamentarian Newman expressed concern that most participants would not know what city departments do what tasks, so rating specific services would be better. Co-Chair Handal requested that Vice-Chair DiGregorio review Councilmember Mike Bonin's services survey for Council District 11 and replicate for a citywide response. A short deadline will be given for completing the survey to maximize participation.

Co-Chair Handal requested Vice-Chair DiGregorio consider how to distribute the survey. He encouraged reaching out to various organizations, including the Department of Water and Power, giving neighborhood councils individual paper copies, and distributing electronically.

18. Report back on responses to Budget Advocate exit survey.: this item was postponed for the next meeting.
19. Rebranding the Budget Advocates: Co-Chair Handal expressed concern that the Budget Advocates name did not reflect the nature of the organization's work and suggested a name change or adding a second line reflecting our work. Some Budget Advocates requested consensus on either a name change or a second line.

MOTION: Co-Chair Amsden moved that the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates would consider a name change to be determined by popular vote. Co-Chair Handal seconded the motion.

SUPPORT: 17 votes

OPPOSE: 6 votes

ABSTAIN: 2 votes

MOTION PASSES

20. New Business: Vice-Chair Ringuette reminded the Budget Advocates of the training with Jacob Wexler on August 30th in the DONE conference room. A Doodle poll will be sent out to schedule a second session with Mr. Wexler due to the density of the information.

Vice-Chair DiGregorio discussed the State of the State event he attended. He reported that State Senator Kevin de Leon stated that the California legislature wanted local communities to request projects like supportive housing in their neighborhoods.

Co-Chair Amsden reported that Mr. Freddy Cupen-Ames of Region 4 has stepped down. She will reach out to the Region 4 Budget Representatives for nominations to replace Mr. Cupen-Ames.

21. Adjournment: Co-Chair Handal adjourned the meeting at 12:39 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
ERICK M. MORALES
2018 - 2019 NCBA Secretary