

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.ncbala.com

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

Monday, February 5, 2018 – 7 pm



Meeting #14 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Present by phone	9	Brigette Kidd	Excused	9
Brian Allen	Present	2	Janet Kim	Excused	7
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Melanie Labrecque	Excused	12
Priscilla Anchondo	Excused	2	Jon Liberman	Excused	11
Glenn Bailey	Present	2	Michael Menjivar	Absent	4
Agnes Copeland	Absent	5	William Morrison	Absent	8
Freddy Cupen-Ames	Present	4	Carol Newman	Present by phone	3
Carol Derby-David	Present by phone	10	Robert Newman	Present by phone	6
Kevin Davis	Present by phone at 7:40pm	1	Christopher Perry	Present	9
John DiGregorio	Absent	1	Rick Ramirez	Present by phone	1
Adrienne Nicole Edwards	Absent	6	Barbara Ringuette	Absent	7
Valaida Gory	Present	10	Estuardo Ruano	Present	7
Diedra Greenaway	Present	2	Danielle Sandoval	Present by phone	12
Jay Handal	Absent	11	Patrick Seamans	Excused	5
James Hornik	Present	6	Eleanor Smith	Absent	10
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Dr. Princess Sykes	Absent	12
Howard Katchen	Present	4	Lynda Valencia	Present	8
Jacqueline Le Kennedy	Absent	11	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Absent	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 19 board members was present (see list above). John Darnell, DONE's Neighborhood Council Advocate, was also present.
3. **Public Comment** - None
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #13 (January 8th)** – Motion by **Howard Katchen** to approve the meeting #13 January 8th minutes as corrected, second by **Lynda Valencia**, and passed with 18 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 1 not yet present.
5. **Treasurer's Report and Motion to Approve** – Howard Katchen, Treasurer
 - a. **Motion to approve** – Motion by **Christopher Perry** to approve the Treasurers Report, second by **Diedra Greenaway**, and passed with 16 ayes (Ale, Amsden, Bailey, Cupen-Ames, Derby-David, Gory, Greenaway, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ruano, and Valencia), 0 no, 2 abstentions (Allen and Sandoval), and 1 not yet present (Davis).
 - b. **Update on issues with DONE** – There are a couple of items he is working on with DONE.
6. **Review of Budget Advocate absences and motion to remove those out of compliance** – Tabled
7. **Bylaws Committee** – Carol Newman
 - a. **Second reading on modified amendments to Article IV of the Budget Advocates' Bylaws.** Motion by **Glenn Bailey** to amend by removing the following text '*...or are terminated by the executive committee*' and '*...or are terminated during their term*', second by **Diedra Greenaway**, and failed with 8 ayes (Bailey, Derby-David, Gory, Greenaway, Hornik, R.

Newman, Perry, and Ramirez), 6 noes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Katchen, C. Newman, and Valencia), 4 abstentions, and 1 not yet present (Davis).

Motion by Motion by **Liz Amsden** to refer back to committee, second by **Glenn Bailey**, and passed with 18 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 1 not yet present.

- b. Second reading on proposed amendments to Article III of the Budget Advocates' Bylaws.

Motion by Motion by **Brian Allen** to refer back to committee, second by **Lynda Valencia**, and passed with 17 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention, and 1 not yet present.

- c. Update on the Grievance Portal – referred back to committee

8. Report on Regional Budget Days

- a. In general, the event was poorly attended; however, good feedback was received from stakeholders who did attend.
- b. Glenn Bailey, the videos were very good, they helped make it more concise and focused, and looked professional. John DiGregorio did a good job facilitating the event.
- c. John Darnell attended Regions 5 – 8 at the zoo and thought the stakeholders were involved. For next year reach out to him in advance for any help he can offer, particularly with logistics, i.e. parking.
- d. The event was poorly attended; however, the discussion was very good.

9. Discussion and possible motion to reimburse Budget Advocate Board members

For out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with Regional Budget Days on January 20, 2018: 1) Jay Handal total \$132.19 (McDonald's 20 deluxe breakfasts \$100.29 and two Starbucks coffee travelers \$31.90, and 2) Valaida Gory total \$41.16 (Smart & Final pastries and muffins \$23.08 and fruit \$18.08) and 3) Danielle Sandoval \$131.48 (Von's coffee \$31.90, Cristy's Donuts \$16.85 and Smart & Final pastries, misc. food items, plates \$82.73).

Motion by **Howard Katchen** to approve all 3 reimbursements, second by **Liz Amsden**, and passed with 19 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Bailey, Cupen-Ames, Davis, Derby-David, Gory, Greenaway, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ruano, Sandoval, and Valencia), 0 noes, and 0 abstentions.

10. Update on Survey –

- a. Still need to get it out for more people to take, as response has been low, only 358 responses to date.

11. Update on the White Paper – Jack Humphreville

- a. Review and discuss draft White Paper – Liz Amsden would like to see references to applicable recommendations from the department reports included. Please send all pending reports to Jack Humphreville and Carol Newman, and cc Liz Amsden and Jay Handal.
- b. Motion to approve letter to Mayor on departments not responding in violation of charter – Tabled.

12. Working with Budget Representatives and Neighborhood Councils

- a. Addressing NCs that have not been visited by a BA / posted to the google doc – People are still having trouble accessing the doc.
- b. Status website – Liz Amsden has been working with the webmaster to update, still need missing headshots.
- c. Status CityWatch articles – Tabled.

13. Report backs

- a. Committee looking at FUSE fellow report on City street infrastructure – No report, the author of the survey will come to the next Budget Advocate's Saturday meeting to give a presentation on the key recommendations.
- b. Committee looking at stump-removal issue – Liz Amsden, the primary issue is that the equipment the City has is not environmentally friendly. The NC Sustainability Alliance

Tree Committee is meeting next Wednesday, perhaps they can investigate the issue as well.

- c. Budget Advocate possibilities in a citywide Youth Committee alliance – Tabled

14. Housekeeping

- a. Setting a date for all executive committee members & committee chairs to put together more detailed position duties so as not to lose institutional knowledge – Please send what each committee chair has been doing, and suggestions on improvements to Liz Amsden to pass on institutional knowledge for incoming Budget Advocates.
- b. Picking up business cards – Tabled

15. Hot issues

- a. Are HHH monies being spent as intended? Discussion included
Complaints about monies being spent primarily on \$450,000 apartments, instead of getting homeless off the street; BAs should be able to put together some recommendations. Including; information from contractors, consider hotel conversions, what city buildings are vacant and could be used for services. We are premature as the homeless count has just been done and the results are not yet out. We just don't know anything, about the county providing services, and the city to provide housing. There is vacant port property that could be used, though the port says that Homeland Security says can't be used. Retrofitting underutilized buildings means our dollars could go much, much farther and it may be worth BAs pursuing retrofitting. Gentrification causes homelessness, as housing becomes unaffordable.
- b. City deal for public toilets and bus shelters – do the advertising dollars help or hinder?
Major complaint is that homeless people are using restaurants, public toilets, or the streets. If the city is putting things in where the advertisers could get good exposure, still leaves the question about bringing services to the people who need them. Public restrooms at parks and such are locked and not serviced.
- c. Is proposed state bill SB 827 which would preempt city zoning control near high-quality transit good for Angelinos?
Bill is in response to NIMBYism, would allow high rise buildings and eliminate parking, however until the city has public transportation, this is not workable in Los Angeles. People need to contact their elected and express their opposition.

16. New Business

- a. Need for a Budget Day 2018 planning committee, this item will be added it to the next agenda. Need to set a date so we can get a 'save the date' out to NCs as soon as possible.

- 17. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Saturday, February 17th at 10:00 am in the West Los Angeles Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted, Lynda Valencia, Sheryl Akerblom
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates