

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates – Meeting #17

www.ncbala.com

1645 Corinth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Saturday, March 18, 2017

10:00 am – 12 noon



Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	By Phone	9	Brigitte Kidd	By Phone 10:15	9
Brian Allen	Excused	2	Keith Kirkwood	By Phone 10:15	5
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Jon Liberman	Absent	11
Julie Burg	By Phone	10	Monica Massey	Absent	12
Kjiel Carlson	Absent	10	Michael Menjivar	Absent	4
Kevin Davis	Absent	1	William Morrison	By Phone 10:25	8
Adrienne Edwards	By Phone 10:10 In Person 10:35	6	Carol Newman	Present	3
Amy Foell	By Phone	7	Christopher Perry	Present	9
Cindy Wu Freeman	Absent	2	Ava Post	Absent	6
Craig Goldfarb	Excused	12	Rick Ramirez	By Phone	1
Valaida Gory	Present	10	Barbara Ringuette	Present 10:10	7
Jay Handal	Present	11	Marcus Rodriguez	Absent	7
Jeanette Hopp	Absent	4	Danielle Sandoval	Present 10:45	12
James Hornik	Present	6	Patrick Seamans	By Phone 10:25	5
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Lynda Valencia	By Phone	8
Ann Job	By Phone 11:35	1	Krisna Velasco	Absent	2
Howard Katchen	By Phone	4	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Absent	3
Jacqueline Kennedy	Present	11	Vacant Seat		3

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Co-Chair Jay Handal.
2. **Roll Call** – A quorum of 22 board members was present (see list above). Gina Park, journalism student, was present in person and Charles Taylor from Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council and Mike Fong, DONE's Director of Policy and Government Relations, were present by phone.
3. **Public Comment** – None
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #12 (January 9th) and Meeting #16 (March 6th)**
Motion by **Howard Katchen** to approve the minutes from meeting #12, January 9th, and meeting #16, March 6th, second by **Liz Amsden**, and passed with 14 ayes (Ale, Amsden, Burg, Foell, Gory, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Newman, Perry, Ramirez, and Valencia), 0 no, 0 abstention(s), and 8 not yet present (Edwards, Job, Kidd, Kirkwood, Morrison, Ringuette, Sandoval, and Seamans).
5. **Treasurer's Report and Motion to Approve** – Treasurer Howard Katchen Update on issues with DONE. Howard is reviewing additional information sent by Man-Qin yesterday and will update the Treasurers Report next week for the next meeting.
6. **Review of Regional Budget Day notes**
Moved to end of meeting. See notes below.
7. **Report on White Paper presentation to the Mayor**
 - a. 25 Budget Advocates met with Mayor Eric Garcetti, and several of his budget people on Wednesday, March 8th to formally present the White Paper. The Mayor dismissed the idea of having an independent oversight committee as recommended by the Budget Advocates saying

Ron Galperin's work covered our concerns satisfactorily, but promised answers and feedback on the White Paper (Jay will follow up with Matt Szabo as to when).

- b. Jay hand-delivered hard copies of the White Paper to every council office (except Englander's whose office was closed) as well as e-mailing digital copies to all electeds and other interested parties.
- c. The mayor said had discussed the fiscal impact if Trump made good on his threats to cut funding to 'Sanctuary Cities' with his counterparts and the consensus was that cuts would be minimal if at all due to existing case law.
- d. Jack still had concerns since, with the growing shortfalls to be covered already, there was no give in the budget to accommodate any further loss of income.
- e. Jack felt the Mayor was nervous about the DWP transfer issue for the same reason and Jay added that substantial concerns exist about next year's budget with the DWP monies, judgement obligations, etc. and thinks quality of life funding will not be restored.
- f. The Mayor mentioned several new sources of income but Jack pointed out that some do not go into the General Fund or are already earmarked for other purposes.
- g. The Budget Advocates need to get a better understanding on where funding is coming from and on what each source will be spent.

8. Plans for presenting the White Paper and updates to the Budget & Finance Committee

On Monday, Jay will request the Budget and Finance Committee to agendaize a presentation of the White Paper by the Budget Advocates during their hearings.

9. Assignments of Budget Advocates to attend the Budget & Finance Committee meetings

- a. Jay will send out a Google doc with a schedule for the Budget and Finance Committee meetings once their schedule is released.
- b. Budget Advocates should sign up for times they can attend and prepare statements supporting our concerns. If at all possible, people should attend the hearings on the departments they interviewed and can provide further input.
- c. Public input is at the beginning so be on time, put in a separate comment card for each department, advise the Committee that they are Budget Advocates and ask for additional time.
- d. Need to track report backs and review, submit further input on issues about which we have concerns.
- e. All hearings are televised and it is recommended that even if people can't attend in person, they follow online.
- f. Those who can't attend should research and provide support and materials to those who can.

10. Promotion of White Paper to Neighborhood Councils and other entities along with motion to support. Discussion on encouraging Neighborhood Councils to add their suggestions.

- a. So far about 12 Neighborhood Councils have passed motions supporting the White Paper and are planning to or have filed a CIS. The current council file is 17-0600.
- b. Jay asked that Budget Advocates go to their Neighborhood Councils and Alliances ask them to submit their support as soon as possible but no later than the end of April
- c. Note that Neighborhood Councils cannot amend the White Paper, but should be encouraged to add their own comments / give regional input.

11. Discussion and resolution to seek Neighborhood Council contributions to the Budget Advocate account - Neighborhood Councils need to vote on this prior to the June 1st deadline.

Budget Advocates should have Neighborhood Councils add a motion to fund the Budget Advocates for the coming year to give money to the Budget Advocates out of unspent funds that would otherwise be swept back into the General Fund. The appropriate form and procedure was distributed with the revised minutes. Although the form lists the Congress and Awards, we are asking only on behalf of the Budget Advocates and the form can be submitted separately for each organization.

12. Discussion and possible motion to set up a committee on training treasurers and others on the City finances and how to attract people, especially younger people, to Budget Advocates.

- a. Jay requested Mike Fong address better training through DONE and ensure that when DONE conducts trainings they should talk about Budget Advocates and how important they are to the City budget process.
- b. Mike was also requested to make the link to the Budget Advocates website and the White Paper be more prominent on the EmpowerLA website, and that all the listed Neighborhood Council websites list their Budget Reps with contact info.
- c. Additionally, DONE should request that Neighborhood Council's own websites also list their Budget Reps and regional Budget Advocates.
- d. Budget Advocates need to get on the agendas of the Neighborhood Councils for which they are responsible in April to give an overview of what Budget Reps and Budget Advocates do are expected to do and try and encourage people with different skill sets and interests to participate, so that when the Neighborhood Council puts the election/appointment of their 2017-18 Budget Representatives on their agenda prior to Budget Day, there is already an interest..
- e. Amy suggested creating a subcommittee to produce some criteria for recruitment and visibility. She will organize and report back at the April 3rd meeting. Brigitte, Ivette, Valaida and Liz voiced interest in participating.
- f. Brigitte urged Jack to further explore Budget 101 videos that would help promote this. Need to put scripts together so they can be scheduled, budgeted and shot.

13. Status of CityWatch/Budget Advocates marketing campaign. Discussion and possible motion to add link on the NCBALA website to CityWatch Budget Advocate materials.

- a. Jay suggested that the campaign refocus on budget issues.
- b. Adrienne to confirm that CityWatch will work with the Budget Advocates through June since there has been very little of the promotion we paid for so far.
- c. Try and get an article in each issue (twice a week) from now till the end of June including links and information on who we are, what we do, our work product, etc.
- d. Add a tab to BA website for people who are interested in being Budget Advocates or Budget Representatives.

14. Stakeholder Survey Update – nothing new to report.

15. Report on addressing the marijuana framework needed by the City with regards to its finances.

- a. Jay attended Councilman Wesson's meeting where there were representatives from Colorado who discussed the cost to set up oversight, enforcement, tracking and other issues.
- b. Los Angeles wants affirmative action in poorer neighborhoods and for startups, but the costs involved are prohibitive.
- c. Jay does not think City will be ready for recreational by 1/1/18.
- d. The State is further along in its logistics but the impact of Big Tobacco becoming involved and continuing banking issues from a Federal level need to be addressed.
- e. The City also must address safety issues relating to product and a cash business.
- f. Jay recommends that the City try to hire someone from the Colorado system with the institution knowledge to avoid some of the problems.
- g. The City needs to keep all funds in a secure fund to cover fiscal compliance and enforcement costs and should not divert income to pay for other expenses.
- h. The Budget Advocates need to make a strong statement that monies be conserved for aggressive compliance and enforcement; recommend that the State's existing ABC infrastructure be extended to monitor and enforce compliance.
- i. Jay, Danielle and Christopher will attend the next meeting on the issue at City Hall to get a better idea on the fiscal implications for the City.
- j. Budget Advocate report draft needs to be distributed prior to the next meeting (April 3rd) for discussion with the final completed by the following meeting (April 15th) so it can be released prior to the City's Budget.

16. Discussion on response from LAHSA to the Budget Advocates' letter (if any)/next steps.

Jay received an e-mail response yesterday from Peter Lynn, disputing everything in the letter, and pointing out that the Channel 2 story was not accurate.

17. Update on DWP settlement on the transfer tax – Jack Humphreville

Jack commented that dollar amounts vary by source. Nothing definitive is available yet. If can't figure a way around it looking like a tax, pursuant to Prop 26, it will need to go to the voters for approval. Any legal challenges will mean huge profits for the lawyers at the expense of the City and taxpayers. In the meantime, the City will not have access to necessary money. Feels we need to push for a 'live within its' means for the City as a trade-off.

6. (reprise) Review of Regional Budget Day notes. List ones to include in the Budget & Finance Committee presentations

- a. Jay requested volunteers to review the notes from all of the regions and distill them down to the nexus issues. Brigitte agreed to review the notes as well as cards from Region 12 stakeholders and video clips of comments from Regions 9 and 10.
- b. Concerns, both regional and shared across the City, will be added as an amendment to the White Paper, as well as marijuana regulatory issues.

7. New Business

- a. Liz commented on the lack of good reports from Regional Budget Days: one person arrived unprepared to take notes, others did not list details, none were submitted on a timely basis. Jay to contact AppleOne with our concerns including that in future note-takers should have a reasonable command of the English language and grammar.
- b. People who attended Regional Budget Days should review and advise Brigitte of errors, changes, additions and clarifications.
- c. Jaqueline will reply to DONE that we feel it inappropriate that awards be given departments but not Budget Advocates.
- d. The CAO's report chart shows the City budgeted \$68 million in liabilities, but incurred almost \$147 million. This should be addressed at a departmental level but \$50 million is in miscellaneous.

7. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 pm. The next meeting is Monday, April 9, 2017 in the DONE offices in City Hall at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates