



Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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Zoom Meeting
Monday, July 6, 2020, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Meeting #2 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
John DiGregorio	Present	1	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Lanira Murphy	Present 7:03	1	Connie Acosta	Present	7
Michael Ebenkamp	Present	1	Seth Copenhaver	Present	7
Brian Allen	Present	2	Jamie Tijerina	Present	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	2	Liz Amsden	Present	8
Garry Fordyce	Present	2	Clint Birdsong	Present	8
Carol Newman	Present	3	Elias Garcia	Present 7:53	9
Lee Blumenfeld	Present 7:03	3	Albert Farias	Present	9
Pat Bates	Present	3	Leslie Gamero	Present	9
Peter Haderlein	Absent	4	Jennifer Goodie	Present	10
Howard Katchen	Present	4	Edmond Warren	Present	10
Brandon Pender	Absent	4	Hugo Rodriguez	Present	10
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Jay Handal	Present	11
Julia Moser	Present	5	Jacqueline Le Kennedy	Present 8:00	11
Daniel Perez	Present	5	Jon Liberman	Present	11
Ernesto Castro	Absent	6	Danielle Sandoval	Present	12
Naira Harootunian	Present	6	Claricza Ortiz	Present	12
Margarita Lopez	Present	6	Gina Martinez	Present	12

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Liz Amsden at 7:02 p.m., with a full quorum reached at that time.
2. Roll Call: See above. In addition, Budget Representatives present were: Kay Hartman (Palms NC), Josh Nadel (Palms NC), Nahian Arfin (North Westwood NC) and Carol Derby-David (Park Mesa Heights CC).
3. Announcements: Liz: Civil behavior is essential during meetings and will be enforced.
4. Public Comment: Brian: Curious about the need for the Chat box. Liz postponed the discussion on Chat to a later meeting.
5. Approval of minutes from Meeting #1: Jon Liberman moved to approve the minutes from Meeting #1 and to make the spelling of Michael Ebenkamp's name

consistent throughout the minutes. Garry seconded. Six abstentions, no opposition. MOTION PASSED.

6. Motion to approve \$13,000 for thirteen (13) additional months of the CityWatch cross- promotion at a \$1,000/month. The additional month is to ensure we are not in arrears in future. (Liz Amsden and Jack Humphreville): Liz moved to approve \$13,000 for thirteen (13) additional months of the CityWatch cross-promotion at a \$1,000/month. Garry seconded. Discussion on the issue.
MOTION WITHDRAWN.

Jay moved to approve three additional months of the CityWatch cross-promotion at a \$1,000/month. Barbara seconded.
Roll call vote, with 20 votes in favor, 12 votes opposed, and one abstention.
MOTION PASSED.

7. Parliamentarian Election

The skills and responsibilities of the Parliamentarian were read from the Bylaws.

- Nomination/Self Nomination:

Clint Birdsong – nominated by John DiGregorio.
Carol Newman – nominated by Barbara Ringuette
Glenn Bailey – nominated self
Brian Allen – nominated by Jacqueline Le Kennedy.

- Election of Parliamentarian

Result of the Vote:

Clint Birdsong – 10 votes
Carol Newman – 9 votes
Brian Allen – 8 votes
Glenn Bailey – 6 votes

Although there was talk about Clint and Carol sharing the position, it was determined that the Bylaws do not provide for such.

Result of the Run-Off Vote:

Carol Newman – 20 votes
Clint Birdsong – 12 votes
Carol is the newly elected Parliamentarian.

8. DURING the vote for Parliamentarian: Brief update on the City Budget (by Jack Humphreville):

The Mayor submitted the budget on April 20. On June 1 the City Council adopted it and did not change anything in it, but everyone looked at it as a placeholder budget, because there was so much uncertainty in it. Controller Galperin thinks the revenue is high by about \$200-400 million. In a normal year, utility, property, business, sales, transfer, occupancy and parking taxes make up about 72% of

normal revenues. Next year a deficit is expected of about \$228 million. These estimates could be understated, because they don't include money for the reserves and this also includes underfunding for pension plans. Everything appears to be based on overly optimistic returns. It's a real mess. The City Council passed an incentive for people to take early retirement, but it's unclear where all the cash will come from. The major expense for the city is personnel – salary, medical benefits and workers comp, which is 60-65% of the budget. The only departments not getting furloughed are police, sanitation and firefighters. The reserve fund is around \$225 million, when it should be is \$330 million, at minimum. They'll be using a lot of it over next couple of months. A lot of money will come in under the CARES Act, but that'll be used for COVID-19 related expenses. Most departments are working on the budget for the 2021-22 Fiscal Year full time. Every department is asked to submit a budget memo, sometimes by November 5, sometimes by December 22. The result could end up being a placeholder budget. City Council makes \$213,833 per year, an amount determined by what city judges make. People say Los Angeles has the highest paid City Council in the country. The essential thing is to pay attention to what the Budget and Finance Committee is doing and to monitor all the negotiations, which are done between the CAO, labor unions and City Council. The only thing BAs can do is to keep up with what is happening to the budget and to keep NCs informed.

9. Corresponding Secretary Election. Skills and responsibilities of the Corresponding Secretary were read from the Bylaws.

- • Nomination/Self Nomination:

Corresponding Secretary:

Glenn Bailey – nominated by Garry Fordyce.

Michael Ebenkamp – nominated by John DiGregorio.

- • Election of Corresponding Secretary

Result of the Vote:

Glenn Bailey – 20 votes

Michael Ebenkamp – 10 votes

Glenn is the newly elected Corresponding Secretary.

Garry questioned whether an effort had been made to make sure that all BAs present had actually been able to submit a vote. John DiGregorio said the test link had been sent out to everybody and Liz assured him that there was a way to check things afterward, should any concerns arise.

10. Plans for the Budget Advocate Retreat: All BAs should e-mail Jack and Liz with details of what they would like to see included in discussions at the Retreat. Requests, agenda, date and time for the Retreat will be finalized with the

Executive Committee within the next week or so. Focus on ideas of how you might want to go about reformatting the White Paper and on what departments and areas of interest you would like to have included.

BAs should e-mail Jack and Liz about jobs to help arrange the Retreat.

To be discussed at the Retreat:

- Knowing which departments are resilient and which will be devastated by cuts.
- Identifying which Financial Status Reports are more important than others and which have higher consequences. Picking one or two as another way to communicate with NCs and as something to bring to stakeholders.

11. New Business:

- Those who feel up-to-speed enough should start bringing reports back to their Neighborhood Councils from BA meetings and encourage their NCs to find dedicated Budget Reps, if they have not done so. Reports are included in the Bylaws this year and will need to be reviewed by a committee of BAs
- E-mail Jack with any questions about the City Budget.
- Respond to Jennifer with your preferred contact information.
- BAs should subscribe on the LA City website to receive their assigned NC agendas here: <https://www.lacity.org/government/subscribe-agendasnotifications/subscribe-other-meeting-agendas/neighborhood-councils>

12. Adjournment: Garry moved to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. John DiGregorio seconded. MOTION PASSED.

The tentative retreat date is Saturday, July 18th, times TBD, but assume 4 to 5 hours with some breaks.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
ELSPETH WEINGARTEN
July 9, 2020

EDITS BY GLENN BAILEY

NCBA APPROVED 7/18/20