

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates 2016/2017- Meeting # 2  
Sunday, August 7, 2016 – 12-5pm  
Flame International Kabob House  
11330 Santa Monica Blvd., LA, CA 90025

1. Call to Order
2. Roll call Jeannette Hopp.
  - 1 Kevin Davis, Ricardo Ramirez, Ann Job
  - 2 Krisna Velasco, Farid Youssif, Brian Allen
  - 3 Carol Newman, Joanne Yvanek-Garb, Simone Best
  - 4 Howard Katchen, Michael Menjivar, Jeanette Hopp
  - 5 Jack Humphreville, Patrick Seamans, Keith Kirkwood
  - 6 James Hornik, **(Vacant)**, **(Vacant)**
    - Guests - Ivan Spiegel, Brandon Pender (Budget Rep.), Glenn Bailey (Budget Rep.), Rhonda L. Spires.
  - 7 Barbara Ringuette **(Excused)**, Amy Foell, Marcus Rodriguez **(Absent)**
  - 8 William Morrison, Liz Amsden, Nicholas Soto **(Excused)**
  - 9 Brigette Kidd, Ivette Ale, Christopher Perry
  - 10 Valaida Gory, Noel Brathwaite **(Excused)**, Julie Burg
  - 11 Jon Liberman, Jacqueline Kennedy, Jay Handal
  - 12 Danielle Sandoval, Robert Campbell **(Absent)**, Craig Goldfarb
3. Public Comment – Ivan Spiegel – Congress of Neighborhoods will be held on Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, 40 workshops, mayor will be in attendance and a session about the city budget will be held. Ivan requested BA's volunteer to help coordinate the session.
4. Jay Handal - Opening remarks: Budget Advocates Quorum is 18, a couple of BAs called in will be late. Circulated forms for BA's business cards and parking pass. Liz Amsden- Thanked everyone for coming.
5. Glenn Bailey – Website went down and the URL was linked to the LANCC website. The page needs to be separated and if we want to continue to have the link on the LANCC website we have that option to post events -- Budget day, Regional Budget Day...etc. Comments from the budget day regional breakout sessions will be posted on the NCBA website.
6. Lunch Break – 12:26
7. 12:38 Introductions of BA's, NC's
8. What are BA's and what do they do? - Jay Handal- If you sign up and can't commit, please step down. Please let us know if you cannot continue there is a lot of time commitment and if you take on too much and can't follow through it affects our productivity. We look at the budget and advise on the budget. BA's were going to look at the city as a whole and discuss what we are going to focus on this year. Over 150 items/ recommendations, 1/3 in the works for implementation. City does listen to BA's and we value our seat at the table. BA recommendations assisted in getting more staff for planning, DONE, more money for LAFD, LAPD. We need to have a clear defined path and it must be achievable and have accurate timeline. BA's know how to tell departments what they are doing wrong.  
**How are we going to tell the department how to raise more revenue?**
  - William Morrison – DWP (Water) talking care of the infrastructure and fined, and LAPD.
  - Jack Humphreville – Recommendations 1.2 Bil. Bond (indicatives), Pensions 20% of the general fund budget, Labor Contacts (Civilian Contacts).
  - Craig Goldfarb – LA Port where is the money? Where is the revenue from cut backs? and a homeless plan, Preparatory departments.

- Kevin Davis – Technology and training, wage increases how is the city going to handle that? How can we work with the colleges? - Rec. and Parks, Personnel, contracting (City giving away revenue to private contractors), invest in upgrading technology.
- Jay Handal – City assets (May take 3 years to assemble).
- Ann Job – Transportation and Homelessness. Lincoln Heights jail should be considered for housing homeless
- Glenn Bailey (Rep.) – \$1 leases and conflicts of interest in receiving the leases. Paul K. discussed at Budget Day about Lawsuits and claims (What are they, how much are they? Transparency.) Charge the departments who are at fault and deduct that amount from their budget. Explanation as to why they are over budget.
- Jay Handal – Judgement Bonds, LAPD Claims (What is budgeted for claims?), Full cost accounting, Settlements v. Claims – Current City Attorney v. Past City Attorney, efficiencies. Accountability and training.
- Howard Katchen – Affordable Housing, Bonus Density, insure and determine if there is oversight that the bonus density is being used accordingly. Vouchers available but not where to use them, DONE funding and cost of moving to the city clerk.
- Ivan Spiegel - DONE charter violation to funding NC's 2 years in advance. Independent analysis on clerk/DONE Elections costs, efficiency and transparency, money that was swept by NC's goes back to the city. What happens when they are go into exhaustive efforts? (Frozen Funds).
- Michael Menjivar – Monitor evictions, Shelters and temporary housing draining the city funds because of homelessness, concerned that homeless population may continue to grow because the city will provide housing.
- Krisna Velasco – Homelessness, prioritizing properties by NC boundaries, oversight of property owners.
- Jacqueline Kennedy – Small Business economic development.
- Brandon Pender (Rep.)– Homelessness, \$138 mil. What has been done? What will be done with the money (Homelessness Plan)? Money needs to be spend in 5years. What is the best use for the money? Otherwise, money will go back to the general fund. Other items--Medical Billing, Motion picture industry. Film Industry—hire local. BAs' need a liaison to reach out to department heads due to lack of interest in meeting with BA's.
- Jeannette Hops – Fire Station 39 – NCs' suing the city, transportation, ADA issues.
- Carol Newman – Homelessness and Pensions, Lawsuits and settlements.
- Jon Lieberman – DWP surplus and cost.
- William Morrison – Job creation, LA Port revenue.
- Amy Foell – Commercial roofs – Solar panels, Homelessness not enough funds, temporary housing – cheaper land to build affordable housing, rid of the pension and put city employee's on a 401k.
- Liz Amsden – Performance based budgeting and understanding what is performance based budgeting is? Education for everyone, fair pay for services rendered, increasing fines and penalties such as Illegal dumping and traffic tickets.
- Danielle Sandoval – Homelessness, higher fines and penalties for illegal dumping, transparency of CD discretionary funds.
- Jack Humphreville – Olympics (We don't want to pay for it.), LA2020 recommendations.
- Jon Liberman – Incentive revenue generation.
- Brandon Pender (Rep.) – Olympic BAs' Committee, identify what revenue is coming in, cost, preparation, infrastructure, visitors committee.

- Jay Handal – Meet with LA 24 and Olympic committee, commissions.
9. Jay Handal – A doodle for committee sign up will go out in a few days. Joanne Yvanek-Garb suggested that after the initial meeting with departments a follow up meeting should be added. Craig Goldfarb added that BA's need to understand what performance based budgeting is. Jay Handal and Liz Amsden agreed and educating BA's on performance based budgeting will be discussed at the BAs' orientation. Jack Humphreville would like a financial analysis from the departments before going into meetings. Liz Amsden - BA's are on an accelerated timeline, letters to city departments will go out Sept., department budgets are to be turned in second week in Nov., meetings need to be conducted by end of Oct.
  10. Liz Amsden – CD contacts are needed from BA's. Amy Foell – Requested that new BA's should be given a BAs' best practices guideline. Jon Liberman recommended that a letter from BAs' should be sent to councilperson's letting them know who the new BA's are for their Council District's and who will be contacting them.
  11. Jay Handal – Concerns from the NC's about BAs' updates and BA's have failed to attend NC meeting. BA's need attend the NC's meetings and give a report. BA's should confirm that they have BAs' report on the agenda.
  12. Treasurer Report – Howard Katchen announced that there is about \$40,000 in BAs' account. We should be spending money more efficiently. Howard talked about how BAs' money is spent and what we fund such as BAs' radio show, Budget Day, Regional Budget Day...etc. \$10,000 has been given annually to BAs' from DONE for the past few years. Glenn Bailey handed out funding forms for NC's to allocate money for funding Congress, Awards, and BAs' for 2017 fiscal yr. Danielle Sandoval suggested that Howard write a description of how and what BAs' spend their money for transparency.
  13. Item # 8, 10-15, 17 Motion by Jeanette Hopp, Danielle Sandoval second to approval of expenditure's, \$600 to set up new NCBA website & up to \$130/mo. for 12 months for maintenance, posting, culling & newsletter, \$180 webhosting, \$650 mo. professional minute taker for 12mo., \$900 business cards, \$60 mo. constant Contact, \$1,000 Admin. Supplies, \$150 lockable file cabinet.  
**Motion Passed 25 in Favor, 0 Against, 1 Abstention, 3 Ineligible**
  14. Item # 9 Motion by Kevin Davis, Jon Liberman second to approve an expenditure of \$360 for Go Daddy BA's emails,  
**Motion Passed 26 in Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstained, 3 Ineligible**
  15. Motion by William Morrison Motion to approve item 16 Discussion to purchase a Lightweight conference call speaker for BAs' meetings than can handle both video and audio, Purchase \$1500  
**Motion passed 29 in Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstained**
    - Motion by William Morrison, Ann Job second to amended motion to purchase \$2000  
**Motion passed 25 in Favor, 1 Against, 0 Abstained, 3 Ineligible**
    - Motion by Jon Liberman, Kevin Davis second the motion to approve to amend the motion to \$2000 for purchase or Lease.  
**Motion passed 25 in Favor, 0 Against, 1 Abstained, 3 Ineligible**
  16. Item # 18 Motion by Jay Handal, second Kevin Davis Motion to approve a letter from BAs' Motion to send the LA City Council and the Mayor a letter from the Budget Advocates requesting they bill the owner of the LA Rams for the estimated 2 Million Dollars in LAPD protection for the current season at the Coliseum, and to instruct LAPD NOT to use regular deployment scheduled officers of any rank or team, but rather off duty officers be hired and paid over time so as not to deplete the regular DP workforce. Farid Youssif Discussion we should look into every event moving forward.  
**Motion passed 29 in Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstention**
  17. Item # 19 Motion by Ann Job, Kevin Davis second to send the LA City Council a letter from the Budget Advocates to request expedited funding for the Community Plans and that, until they are complete,

that the interests of stakeholders and NCs' be given priority over developers in all matters relating to land use in the communities.

**Motion Passed 29 in Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstained**

19. Item # 23 Motion by Jack Humphreville, second by Jon Liberman to send the LA City Council a letter from the Budget Advocates to agendaize the adoption of a Truth in Budgeting Ordinance as recommended by the LA 2020 Commission no later than January of 2017

**Motion Passed 28 in Favor, 1 Against, 0 Abstained**

20. Item #20, 21, 22 Motion's by Jack Humphreville, second by Jon Liberman to send the following letters:
- Motion to send the LA City Council a letter from the Budget Advocates to make long range planning a priority with a request to all City Departments to initiate and/or increase the robustness of three- or five-year budgets and to agendaize action on this issue no later than January of 2017.
  - Motion to send the LA City Council a letter from the Budget Advocates to agendaize the Office of Transparency and Accountability as recommended by the LA 2020 Commission no later than January of 2017.
  - Motion to send the LA City Council a letter from the Budget Advocates to agendaize the Committee for Retirement Security as recommended by the LA 2020 Commission no later than January of 2017.

**Motions Passed 29 in Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstained**

21. Item # 24 Motion by Liz Amsden, second by Jon Liberman to send the LA City Council a letter from the Budget Advocates to provide additional funding to the Ethics Commission for investigative and enforcement both within and outside City Hall specifically to expanding outreach and training to all parties involved including subcontractors, and to expedite investigations both as a warning to scofflaws and as a revenue source to offset the additional funds.

**Motion Passed 29 in Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstention**

22. Announcement of available Mentors to new BA's and encouragement to reach out and ask questions. Mentoring Orientation Meeting, Best Practices - Jay Handal to send out doodle for dates and times.
23. Discussion: How are BA's going to work more effectively with their Regions' NCs' and Budget Rep's.? How will we draw more NC board and stakeholder involvement? - Better communication with BA Reps., BA's and NCs'. Emphasis on more outreach through Social Media (Danielle Sandoval, Krisna Velasco), Brigitte Kidd coordination of the BA electronic newsletter. Jack Humphreville will send a link for LA2020 report to post on the NCBA Website.
24. Plans for meeting with Mayor on his Budget Proposal to the City departments. Meeting with Matt Szabo has been scheduled with Liz Amsden and Jay Handal.
25. Regional Issues – Jay Handal, a doodle will go out for those interested in joining a committee to look at what past BA's have done and insure regional issues are addressed. Included in the doodle BA availability to attend a meeting with the attorney general.
26. Discussion: What is our guiding force? What should the focus of the 2016/17 BAs be?
27. White Paper theme / approach to city department meetings / which to do / who to chair / who to work on report (everyone coordinate or write report on one, be on one or two others).
- (a) Theme could be to generate more revenue; focus not on what wants but how can BAs help increase efficiency of departments by 20%, how City Council can do to increase revenue if don't raise taxes, what can BAs do to help?

- (b) Do we want committees by department or on issues such as affordable housing, DWP concerns, homelessness, pension problems, education and taxation.

**Jack Humphreville – White paper chair**

28. Breakout sessions along lines of interest, determination of which entities to meet with, assignment of commitments to accomplish those goals, desired outcomes (inclusion in the White Paper, discussion

with the Councilmembers offices, etc.) and the establishment of specific deadlines. **Tabled for lack of time.**

- 29. Group reports on their objectives and timelines; input and approval by the Budget Advocates. **Tabled for lack of time.**
- 30. Discussion and motion on scheduling of upcoming Budget Advocate meetings (to address end of summer and the Labor Day weekend). Majority agreed to hold BA meeting on Aug 20<sup>th</sup> 10-12pm, 12-1pm Orientation, Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm BA meeting.
- 31. Suggestions for Congress of Neighborhood Budget Advocate seminar(s). BA's can have a table at congress. Brandon Pender and Brigette Kidd will help with the workshop. Joanne Yvanek-Garb and Krisna Velasco will work the BA table at congress.
- 32. Discussion of possible dates for Regional Budget Day. Danielle Sandoval suggested Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> or Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Liz Amsden suggested January and commented that it was discussed and agreed with last year's BA's that Regional Budget Day should be pushed back due to time constraints and scheduling meetings with city departments. Given that there were new BA's another concern was that people may be overwhelmed and scheduling Regional BA Day at an earlier time next year could be an option. After further discussion the motion was passed by the majority to hold regional budget day in January.

**Regional BA Day Committee:**

1/2 Krisna Velasco	7/8 Liz Amsden	12 Danielle Sandoval
3/4 Joanne Yvanek-Garb	9/10 Julie Burg	
5/6	11 Jacqueline Kennedy	

- 33. New business.
  - (a) Ron Galperin has invited the BAs to a 1-1<sup>1/2</sup> hour presentation on the Control Panel and a tour of the data center, date and time TBD
  - (b) paper-printing policy– people will be responsible for their own materials unless they are not distributed prior to a meeting

35. Adjournment 4:55pm.