

# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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1645 Corinth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Saturday, February 17, 2018

10:00 am – 12 noon

## Meeting #15 Minutes



Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Excused	9	Brigette Kidd	Present at 10:14 am	9
Brian Allen	Present	2	Janet Kim	Absent	7
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Melanie Labrecque	Present by phone	12
Priscilla Anchondo	Present	3	Jon Liberman	Present	11
Glenn Bailey	Present	2	Michael Menjivar	Absent	4
Agnes Copeland	Absent	5	William Morrison	Absent	8
Freddy Cupen-Ames	Present by phone	4	Carol Newman	Present	3
Carol Derby-David	Present	10	Robert Newman	Absent	6
Kevin Davis	Absent	1	Christopher Perry	Present	9
John DiGregorio	Present	1	Rick Ramirez	Present by phone	1
Adrienne Nicole Edwards	Excused	6	Barbara Ringuette	Present at 10:13 am	7
Valaida Gory	Present	10	Estuardo Ruano	Present by phone	7
Diedra Greenaway	Present at 10:15 am	2	Danielle Sandoval	Present by phone	12
Jay Handal	Present	11	Patrick Seamans	Absent	5
James Hornik	Present by phone	6	Eleanor Smith	Excused	10
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Dr. Princess Sykes	Absent	12
Howard Katchen	Present at 10:19 am	4	Lynda Valencia	Present	8
Jacqueline Le Kennedy	Present by phone at 10:55 am	11	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Present	3

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Co-Chair Jay Handal.
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum of 25 board members was present (see list above). Budget Representatives Jose Pelico from Boyle Heights and Don Evans from Canoga Park were present as were Jeffrey Mausner from Tarzana Neighborhood Council. John Darnell, DONE's Neighborhood Council Advocate, was present by phone.
3. **Public Comment**
  - a. Jeffrey Mausner objected to cuts to the 2017-2018 budget for the Animal Services Department, particularly as funding is needed for transitioning Los Angeles to no-kill shelters for healthy adoptable animals.
  - b. John Darnell announced the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition is meeting on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>; DONE is holding Election Workshops to prepare for 2019 elections, the deadline for NCs to submit bylaw changes is April 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. Sheryl Akerblom advised that the City Clerk funding deadlines for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The deadlines will make it difficult to pay for June Selection items.
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #14 (February 5<sup>th</sup>)** – Motion by **Howard Katchen** to approve the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting #14 minutes as corrected, seconded by **Liz Amsden**, and passed with 21, 0 noes, 3 abstentions, and 1 not yet present (Kennedy).

**5. Treasurer's Report**

- a. Motion to approve – Motion by **Howard Katchen** to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by **Liz Amsden**, and passed with 23 ayes (Amsden, Anchondo, Bailey, Cupen-Ames, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Gory, Greenaway, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kidd, Lebreque, Liberman, C. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, Ruano, Sandoval, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 1 no (Allen), 0 abstentions, and 1 not yet present (Kennedy).
- b. Update on issues with DONE – Howard met with Man-Qin on the double-charging and funds charged to Congress issues which DONE has to fix internally. Howard will reallocate funds to deplete the DONE account. Howard will also look into setting the Budget Advocates up as a vendor and will create an invoice template for Neighborhood Councils to use in donating funds to the Budget Advocates.

**6. Presentation by Laila Alequresh, FUSE Executive Fellow**

[Council File 17-1311](#) \* scroll down on the right (Online Documents) to the bottom and click on Report from City Administrative Officer dated 11/20/2017

- a. Laila gave a presentation based on her report which can be accessed at the link above.
- b. One of the goals is to improve coordination between city departments and eliminate overlap in services and maintenance.
- c. Departments need to prioritize the backlog.
- d. Ms. Alequresh answered questions; her contact information is [L.Alequresh@lacity.org](mailto:L.Alequresh@lacity.org).
- e. Motion by **Liz Amsden**, seconded by **Jack Humphreville**, to incorporate appropriate points from Laila Alequresh' report in the White Paper and, as individuals and Budget Advocates, to promote Laila's findings through the committee process at City Hall and communicate and endorse them to Councilmembers and the Mayor and to the Neighborhood Councils; and passed with 25 ayes, 0 noes, and 0 abstentions.

**7. Bylaws Committee report**

- a. First reading of Article IV of the Budget Advocates' Bylaws as amended.
- b. First reading of Article III of the Budget Advocates' Bylaws as amended.
- c. Update on the Grievance Portal – The Bylaws Committee will be reviewing the draft form prior to presentation to the Budget Advocates for approval.

**8. Update on Survey**

- a. There have been 502 responses to date.
- b. People should get the survey link out through Neighborhood Councils, Council District offices' outreach people, Senior Lead Officers, NextDoor, etc. and advise them the survey will conclude on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Freddy Cupen-Ames is working on getting a Mail Chimp account and creating a cut-and-paste e-mail template for each region.

**9. Review and discuss draft White Paper as revised and possible motion to approve**

- a. Jack Humphreville sent out a two-page draft last night.
- b. Glenn Bailey will edit the recommendations received at Budget Day and Regional Budget Day to be added as a separate section.
- c. John DiGregorio will forward Budget Day recommendations to Glenn to be included in his report.

**10. Planning for the meeting with the Mayor on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm** – The White Paper, addendums, comments, and recommendations all need to be complete before this meeting.

**11. Motion to approve letter to Mayor on departments not responding** – Item tabled

**12. Preliminary discussion about Budget Day 2018**

- a. Annual Budget Day is set for June 23, 2018.

- b. An Ad Hoc Budget Day Committee was formed. Members are Danielle Sandoval, John DiGregorio, Barbara Ringuette and Glenn Bailey. Co-chairs will be Barbara Ringuette and John Digregorio.

**13. Working with Budget Representatives and Neighborhood Councils** – Item tabled

**14. Review of Budget Advocate absences and motion to remove those, if any, out of compliance** – Item tabled.

**15. Report backs:**

- a. Committee looking at stump-removal issue – Jay addressed some of the financial issues facing the department which should be addressed in the White Paper as an example of budgeting stupidity. Glenn will attend the NCSA Tree committee meeting and report back.
- b. Budget Advocate possibilities in a citywide Youth Committee Alliance – John DiGregorio is forming a citywide Youth Committee Alliance, and will investigate possibilities for linking up with the Budget Advocates.

**16. Housekeeping**

- a. Business cards – Cards are in the front office.
- b. Executive / Committee Chairs job descriptions – People please submit the information.

**17. Hot issues**

- a. Councilmembers Englander and Bonin have asked the City Attorney to report back on actions necessary to exit the Exclusive Waste Franchise which is probably unrealistic considering the money invested by the City and the operators.
- b. Joanne Yvanek-Garb gave an update on the safety of City libraries.
- c. Negotiations for Amazon's new headquarters are being kept secret from local stakeholders in the short-listed cities, especially the tax incentives that are being offered.
- d. The Department of Cannabis was supposed to approve 200 licenses in the first 90 days but are understaffed and way behind; as a result vendors don't have the income to pay their leases.

**18. New Business** – None

**19. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the DONE offices.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom  
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates