

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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1645 Corinth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Saturday, February 18, 2017



Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Present by Phone	9	Brigitte Kidd	Present by Phone	9
Brian Allen	Present	2	Keith Kirkwood	Excused	5
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Jon Liberman	Present (1012)	11
Julie Burg	Present by Phone	10	Monica Massey	Present by Phone (1012)	12
Kjiel Carlson	Paternity leave	10	Michael Menjivar	Present by Phone (left ?)	4
Kevin Davis	Absent	1	William Morrison	Present by Phone	8
Adrienne Edwards	Present by Phone (1038)	6	Carol Newman	Present	3
Amy Foell	Excused	7	Christopher Perry	Present	9
Cindy Wu Freeman	Absent	2	Ava Post	Present by Phone	6
Craig Goldfarb	Excused	12	Rick Ramirez	Present by Phone	1
Valaida Gory	Present by Phone	10	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Jay Handal	Present	11	Marcus Rodriguez	Present by Phone	7
Jeanette Hopp	Present (1016)	4	Danielle Sandoval	Present by Phone	12
James Hornik	Absent	6	Patrick Seamans	Absent	5
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Lynda Valencia	Present by Phone	8
Ann Job	Present (1044)	1	Krisna Velasco	Absent	2
Howard Katchen	Present by Phone (1010)	4	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Present	3
Jacqueline Kennedy	Present by Phone (1018)	11	Vacant Seat		3

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Co-Chair Jay Handal.
2. **Roll Call** – A quorum of 26 board members was present (see list above). Wayne McGee, Budget Representative for Harbor City, and Leslie Graham, Budget Representative for West Adams, were present by phone. Mike Fong, DONE’s Director of Policy and Government Relations, was present by phone.
3. **Public Comment:**
 - a. Mike Fong announced that Grayce will talk about elections at the ARC meeting on Monday, and the Homeless liaisons will be meeting on March 2nd.
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #12 (January 9th) and Meeting #14 (February 6th)**
 - a. January 9th minutes were not received in time to circulate, tabled until next meeting.
 - b. Motion by **Carol Newman** to approve the minutes from meeting #14 on February 6th, seconded by **Jack Humphreville**, and passed with 19 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Burg, Gory, Handal, Humphreville, Kidd, Menjvar, Morrison, Newman, Perry, Post, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noES, and 0 abstention(s).

5. **Treasurer’s Report and Motion to Approve** – Treasurer Howard Katchen
The treasurer’s report was circulated with no changes due to the continued non-response from DONE. Mike Fong will follow up with Man-Qin early next week and contact Howard.

6. **Update on a Replacement Budget Advocate for Region 3**
Harvey declined, Joanne spoke to Corinne Ho of the Canoga Park NC and she is considering.

7. **Second reading of Amendment to Article XI, Section 1 (Compliance) of the Budget Advocate Bylaws**

‘It is recommended that all Budget Advocates take the trainings required by the Department including, but not limited to, ethics, funding and code of conduct as provided by the City within the time prescribed by the Department. Verification of such trainings will be by self-affirmation. In addition, Budget Advocates will be offered training in the City’s budget process; the Department shall help facilitate training for any Budget Advocates who so request.’

Motion by **Joanne Yvanek-Garb** to approve the proposed amendment of Article XI, Section 1 (Compliance) of the NCBA Bylaws as amended (final draft above), seconded by **Jon Liberman**, and passed with 24 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Burg, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Massey, Menjvar, Morrison, Newman, Perry, Post, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, and 0 abstentions.

8. **Review and possible motion to approve White Paper, with or without changes**

Deliberation on amendments. Motion by **Carol Newman** to approve the White Paper pursuant to changes discussed, second by **Jack Humphreville**, and passed with 24 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Burg, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Massey, Menjvar, Morrison, Newman, Perry, Post, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 no, and 0 abstention(s).

9. **Review and possible motion to approve City Department reports, with or without changes**

- a. The following reports are still missing and must be submitted to Marcus or will not be included with the final White Paper: Convention Center, and Zoo (Jon), City Clerk, City Controller, Finance, General Services, Board of Public Works, and Street Services (Joanne); Street Lighting, and Fire/EMT (William); Unions (Coalition, LAFD, Architects), Engineering Bureau, and Employee Relations committees never met with their departments.
- b. Marcus to send Liz a list of all completed reports and compile the finished reports for final approval.
- c. A list of recommendations by department report is to be excerpted and submitted to the CAO for evaluation.
- d. All Budget Advocates (any anyone else) are encouraged to submit suggestions on how the City can increase revenues to Jack, copying Liz and Jay; this list to be included in the White Paper.

10. **Discussion on delivery and distribution of White Paper and reports including list of recommendations to the CAO**

- a. The Budget Advocate meeting with the Mayor to present the White Paper is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8th.
- b. After the White Paper and department reports have been given to the Mayor, copies will be delivered to the Budget and Finance Committee members and staff with a request that the Budget Advocates presentation be put on their agenda.
- c. The completed White Paper along with recommendations from each department will be submitted to the CAO at the same time to give them as much time as possible to evaluate and respond.

11. **Update on Regional Budget Day Plans** – logistics, running of and food

- a. Jay will join Lynda to facilitate Regions 7/8.
- b. Jacqueline and Jon will facilitate Regions 11.

- c. Discussion on the need for training/support for first year Budget Advocates. Co-chairs are always available to assign help/answer questions.
- d. Co-chairs emphasized that the Regional Budget Day is meant to be an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on and make suggestions about the City budget and include the shared and differing regional concerns when we speak to the Mayor and Budget and Finance Committee.
- e. Motion by **Jay Handal** to approve hiring note-takers for each Regional Budget Day location, seconded by **Jon Liberman**, and passed with 26 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Burg, Edwards, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Humphreville, Job, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Masey, Menjvar, Morrison, Newman, Perry, Post, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, and 0 abstentions.
- f. Each coordinator should arrange to have their event broadcast through FaceBook Live; people who have not done this before should contact Adrienne and Jay to learn the finer points.
- g. Jay will obtain large pads, markers and easels from DONE for each event.
- h. Adrienne will contact Grayce to ensure the Regional Budget Days are featured in DONE's newsletter on Friday.

12. Status report on Electeds and Candidates' Survey

There have been no additional responses from candidates and no responses from any electeds.

13. Outreach/Status of CityWatch/Budget Advocates marketing campaign – Adrienne advised that CityWatch will send an e-blast promoting the Regional Budget Days. Still need clarity on what the Budget Advocates are getting for their money.

14. Stakeholder Survey Update – Jay Handal reported that there have been no new surveys; people are still not taking the existing surveys. People have reported that the link does not work properly. In future they should be directed to Jay so he can address on a timely basis. Cards promoting the surveys are still available from Mike Fong.

15. Report on the San Pedro medical marijuana community forum, possible discussion on Measures M and N

- a. The forum was cancelled due to weather.
- b. The proponents of Measure N are now backing Measure M and there is no opposition to Measure M.
- c. Measure M basically repeals existing city legislation and opens the way to replaces it with legislation that is consistent with the new state law.

16. Status of Budget Advocates' letter to LAHSA

Jon sent the final draft to Jay who will print for signature and go out today

17. Update on fiscal impact of potential withholding of federal funds from Los Angeles due to declaration of "Sanctuary City" status by the City and/or State

Discussion on how funds flow from the federal government to the City, not only directly but also through individual programs, the County and the State. To gain clarity on the actual impact, Jay recommended the Budget Advocates request the CAO give a department-by-department, program-by-program report-back on what funds might be cut if the Federal government elected to impose sanctions, and how the City might replace those monies in a worse-case scenario. Given its pressing importance of the issue, it was suggested that the request be added to the White Paper.

Motion by **Jay Handal** to include the above request as part of the White Paper to be submitted to the Mayor, Budget and Finance Committee and City Council, seconded by **Jon Liberman**.

Ivette requested the Budget Advocates also request an evaluation of how such funding cuts would affect the City's GDP. Motion by **Ivette Ale**, seconded by **Brigitte Kidd** to amend the motion to include the request on the impact on GDP. A concern was raised that an additional ask might dilute the impact of the first request. Also, this can be asked later when more information might be available.

Vote on the amendment: 15 ayes (Ale, Burg, Edwards, Gory, Kennedy, Kidd, Massey, Morrison, Post, Valencia), 14 noes (Allen, Amsden, Handal, Hopp, Humphreville, Job, Katchen, Liberman, Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Yvanek-Garb), 0 abstentions and 1 not present (Menjivar). Amendment fails.

Original motion passes with 23 ayes (Allen, Amsden, Edwards, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Humphreville, Job, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Massey, Morrison, Newman, Perry, Post, Ramirez, Ringuette, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 2 noes (Ale and Burg), 0 abstention(s) and 1 not present (Menjivar).

18. **Housekeeping**

Due to sound quality and drop-offs, it was decided the Budget Advocates need a fully functional speakerphone for their next Saturday meeting (does not need video conferencing features).

19. **New Business**

- a. Jack raised the issue that the true costs of affordable housing need to be addressed.
- b. Jack reported that a settlement has been reached with the DWP on the transfer tax but details have yet to be released.

20. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 6, 2017 in the DONE offices in City Hall at 7:00 pm. The meeting with the Mayor on the White Paper will be on Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates