

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.ncbala.com

1645 Corinth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Saturday, October 15, 2016

10:00 am



Approved Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Present (10:15 am)	9	Jacqueline Kennedy	Present (10:15 am)	11
Brian Allen	Present (10:10 am)	2	Brigitte Kidd	Notified absence	9
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Keith Kirkwood	Present	5
Simone Best	Present (10:45 am)	3	Jon Liberman	By Phone	11
Julie Burg	By Phone	10	Monica Massey	Absent	12
Kjiel Carlson	Absent	10	Michael Menjivar	Absent	4
Kevin Davis	By Phone (10:15 am)	1	William Morrison	Present	8
Adrienne Edwards	Phone/arrived 11:15	6	Carol Newman	Present (left at 12:40)	3
Amy Foell	Absent	7	Christopher Perry	Absent	9
Sandy Garcia	Absent	8	Rick Ramirez	By Phone	1
Craig Goldfarb	Notified absence	12	Barbara Ringuette	Notified absence	7
Valaida Gory	Notified absence	10	Marcus Rodriguez	By Phone	7
Jay Handal	Present	11	Danielle Sandoval	By Phone	12
Jeanette Hopp	Notified absence	4	Patrick Seamans	Notified absence	5
James Hornik	Present	6	Rocky Valenzuela	Absent	6
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Krisna Velasco	Absent	2
Ann Job	Notified absence	1	Farid Youssif	Absent	2
Howard Katchen	Present (10:15 am)	4	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Present	3

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by Co-Chair Jay Handal.
2. **Roll Call** – A quorum of 20 board members was present (see list above). The following budget representatives were present: Louis Nelson from EC Southwest, Wayne McGee and Hayes Thrower from Harbor City, Charles Savinar from North Hollywood West, Jason Gallegos from Boyle Heights, and Brandon Pender from Toluca Lake. Mike Fong, DONE's Director of Policy and Government Relations, arrived partway through the meeting.
3. **Public Comment:**
 - a. Hayes Thrower offered to act as an alternate BA, if needed, for region 12, in addition to Monica Massey from Wilmington who has agreed to be the BA for the region.
 - b. Mike Fong, Director of Policy and Government Relations, at the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, commented that DONE is requesting every NC to appoint a homelessness advocate/liaison. He also announced there would be another Beyond Neighborhood Councils – How to Run for Higher Office, Get Appointed to a City Commission or Find a Job with the City workshop on October 24 in Van Nuys.
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meetings #5 (September 17th) and #6 (September 26th):** Motion by **Jack Humphreville** to approve the minutes from meetings #5 and #6, second by **Joanne Yvanek-Garb**, and passed with 18 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Burg, Davis, Edwards, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kirkwood, Liberman, Morrison, Newman, Ramirez, Rodriguez, Sandoval, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 not yet present (Best and Kennedy).

5. **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Howard Katchen
 - a. Howard distributed a written report to the board and can be viewed at <http://ncbala.com/financials>.
Motion by **Jack Humphreville** to approve the Treasurer's Report, second by **William Morrison**, and passed with 18 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Burg, Davis, Edwards, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kirkwood, Liberman, Morrison, Newman, Ramirez, Rodriguez, Sandoval, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 not yet present (Best and Kennedy).
6. **Housekeeping** – Jay Handal
 - a. Speakerphone – No video phone system has been purchased. Will address getting a better speakerphone for the West LA meetings.
 - b. Status of BAs' certifications (Code of Conduct, Ethics & Financial training) – Jon Liberman to access the needed information from DONE next week then pursue accuracy individually.
 - c. Website – The website is up to date. Committee chairs/writers are requested to submit quick reports from their department meetings to post on the site.
 - d. Headshots – Anyone whose photo is not on the website should forward them to Liz asap.
 - e. Filing Cabinet – Planning to get one as soon as possible for the West LA office for paperwork as well as banners, camera and other Budget Advocate assets to have access when DONE is closed.
 - f. Attendance – Moving forward, acceptable excuses for Budget Advocates to miss meetings are illness, family emergency, conflicting meetings or work. Where possible, such notifications should be sent to one or both of the Co-Chairs at least 2 hours PRIOR to the meeting in question. As Parliamentarian, William Morrison, will work to develop more specific criteria.
7. **Replacement BAs for Regions 8 and 12** – Sandy Garcia from Glassell Park NC will be replacing Nicholas Soto as the third Budget Advocate in Region 8 and Monica Massey from Wilmington NC will be replacing Robert Campbell in Region 12.
8. **Reports on material issues regarding connecting with Budge Reps, Neighborhood Councils and Alliances** – BAs should ensure they have been in touch with each NC for which they are responsible, especially those which have yet to appoint Budget Representatives, prior to the next BA meeting and note on the google doc (Jay to resend the appropriate link).
9. **Outreach**
 - a. Newsletter Status
 - i. Jay got the first newsletter out and would like to get another out this coming week;
 - ii. Budget Advocates are requested to send a paragraph or two with links on budget related subjects to him asap;
 - iii. The goal is to get a newsletter out after every meeting.
 - b. Appoint a person to maintain Facebook page, or approve shutting it down.
 - i. Adrienne Edwards volunteered to be the administrator for the Budget Advocate Facebook page as well as the Twitter account, Danielle Sandoval will give her admin rights, and Jay will give her access to the Twitter account.
10. **Survey Update**
 - a. The survey will be done in multiple sections of 4 or 5 questions to encourage more participation;
 - b. The first one will be on public safety – police, fire and emergency services – a first draft was submitted to the Co-Chairs at the meeting and discussed;
 - c. Jay would like to send out a mini survey with each newsletter.
 - d. Applicable feedback can be used in the Budget Advocates' meetings with the City department meetings.
11. **Committee Reports** –
 - a. Each committee was reviewed and the updated information will be posted on the BAs' online Committee google doc;

- b. Committees should prepare questions addressing the concerns raised over the past couple of months – revenue streams, homelessness costs, longer term budgeting, what upgrades need to be done to increase efficiency and how much those will save in the long run.
- c. A decision was made to drop the DWP committee as being tangential to the Budget Advocate mission which is concerned primarily with the City's General Fund expenses;
- d. Danielle Sandoval will take over setting up a meeting with the Port of Los Angeles.

12. White Paper Update

- a. The City Council's Budget and Finance committee has not agendized the five points of the preliminary white paper for their October 17 meeting.
- b. Jack Humphreville invited others to join him in attending this meeting with copies of Budget Advocates' paper and reiterating in person the demands to take action on the 2020 Commission recommendations;
- c. Jay will resend to the NCs, specifically asking them to submit support for it through the NC/CIS system;
- d. Jack would like to see this year's White Paper have 4 or 5 big picture recommendations dealing with the City government's systemic problems as well as addressing revenue;
- e. Recommended we look at putting out additional short form white papers on specific issues: once the one on the 2020 Commission gets its play, move on to streets, revenue, etc.
- f. Focus needs to be on how the City gets itself out of the financial mess it's in: expenditures continue to exceed revenues, it has \$15 billion in pension liability which will take 30 to 40 years to resolve, they need to address lawsuits, homelessness, etc.;
- g. Department reports should be reviewed by the departments as to accuracy then circulated among BAs and approved before being formally submitted to the departments as a tool for their budget or posted to the website.

13. Discussion and possible motions on the Budget Advocates' position, if any, on Measure HHH and other items on the November ballot

- a. Motion by **Simone Best** to approve writing a letter to Governor Brown and our State electeds to declare a State of Emergency on California's homeless crisis, which would allow access to both state and federal emergency funding, seconded by **Joanne Yvanek-Garb**, and passed with 19 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Best, Burg, Davis, Edwards, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kirkwood, Liberman, Morrison, Ramirez, Rodriguez, Sandoval, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, 0 abstentions (Carol Newman having left the meeting).
- b. Motion by **Simone Best** that the BAs not take a position on Measure HHH or any other current measures/propositions, seconded by **Howard Katchen**. Failed with 7 ayes (Best, Edwards, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, and Kennedy), 10 noes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Kirkwood, Liberman, Morrison, Ramirez, Rodriguez, Sandoval, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 abstentions (Carol Newman having left the meeting and 2 having hung up from conference call (Burg and Davis).

14. Discussion and possible motion to request an increase in fund for the Congress of Neighborhoods from DONE – Motion by **Liz Amsden** to approve requesting Budget and Finance to increase funding for the Congress of Neighborhoods to a total of \$30,000 per year, second by **Joanne Yvanek-Garb**, and passed with 19 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Best, Burg, Davis, Edwards, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kirkwood, Liberman, Morrison, Ramirez, Rodriguez, Sandoval, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 1 left meeting early (Newman). *Note that the vote for 14 preceded that for 13 b.*

15. New Business – None

16. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. The next meeting will be November 7, 2016 in the DONE office at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates