

# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

[www.budgetadvocates.org](http://www.budgetadvocates.org)



**Zoom Meeting**  
**Saturday, November 21, 2020, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Meeting #11 Minutes**

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
-----	-----	1	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Lanira Murphy	Present	1	-----	-----	7
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Brian Allen	Present 9:35	2	Jamie Tijerina	Absent	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	2	Liz Amsden	Present	8
Garry Fordyce	Present	2	Clint Birdsong	Absent	8
Carol Newman	Present	3	Elias Garcia	Present	9
Lee Blumenfeld	Present	3	-----	-----	9
Pat Bates	Present	3	Leslie Gamero	Present 9:55	9
Peter Haderlein	Absent	4	Jennifer Goodie	Present	10
Howard Katchen	Present 9:35	4	Edmond Warren	Present	10
Brandon Pender	Present 9:36	4	Hugo Rodriguez	Absent	10
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Jay Handal	Present	11
Julia Moser	Present	5	Jacqueline Le Kennedy	Excused	11
Daniel Perez	Present 9:55	5	Jon Liberman	Present	11
Ernesto Castro	Present 9:58	6	Danielle Sandoval	Present	12
Naira Harootunian	Absent	6	-----	-----	12
Margarita Lopez	Present	6	Gina Martinez	Absent	12

1. Call to order / Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Liz Amsden at 9:34 a.m., with a quorum reached at that time. See above for Roll Call.

Budget Representatives present were: Kay Hartman (Palms NC) and Jason Hector (Porter Ranch NC). Also present was Spanish-to-English translator Ligia Estrada.

2. Public Comment on non-agenda items:
  - o Budget Reps: None
  - o Stakeholders: None
3. Motion to approve minutes for Meetings #9 (October 17<sup>th</sup>) and #10 (November 2<sup>nd</sup>): Glenn expects to have these ready for the next meeting.

4. Motion to approve Financial Report: Jon moved to approve the Financial Report. Jay seconded. The Greater Wilshire NC contribution amount will be removed. MOTION PASSED, with 19 for, 1 opposed and 1 abstention.
5. Replacement of Budget Advocates who have stepped down; Region 1 (2), Region 7 (1), Region 9 (1), Region 12 (1): Budget Advocates were asked to reach out to people in the regions to fill the vacant positions; candidates don't need to be board members.
6. Nomination and election of replacement Vice-Chair, Development: Jon nominated Jay for Vice Chair, Development. Jay accepted. JAY WAS ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION.
7. Status on the grievance(s): Carol reported that no grievances are left as those that were remaining have been withdrawn.
8. Report-back on Co-Chairs' meeting with Tribunes: Jack reported that he and Liz met last week with John DiGregorio and Josh Nadel, who represent the Tribunes. The meeting was cordial and it was agreed that the Tribunes would be working at a Neighborhood Council level, while the Advocates would maintain focus on the City Budget. Both would work for the good of the city and agreed upon a policy of "no trash talking." Discussion followed.
9. Report-back on meeting with Raquel Beltrán: Jack reported that he, Liz, Brian and Glenn met with Raquel Beltrán and Mike Fong of DONE. Raquel had asked the Controller's office for feedback on the BAs use of CityWatch.
10. State of the City Budget: Jack reported that the budget could easily get to a deficit of \$700 million. The city's next set of recommendations (including over-expenditures and recommendations for cuts) will be released in December, but it will be difficult to reduce a deficit that large. The deficit is due largely to the city's failure to implement its furlough policy and is being called a "budget gap," instead of a "deficit." The City Council Budget and Finance Committee meetings are typically held the second and fourth Monday of each month. (See the December Budget Advocate report.)
11. Status on Budget Advocate outreach to the Departments, Council members and Mayor: Liz will distribute City Department contact information to all Budget Advocates early next week.
12. Plan to implement Budget Advocate Outreach to the Neighborhood Councils: Julia will be sending out a Doodle poll and she invites as many members as possible to sign up to participate in outreach efforts.
13. Status Formalizing the Budget Advocates position committee: Discussion by Jay on the issue of how to move forward as Budget Advocates.

Jay moved to vote on two motions brought forward from last night's Committee meeting: a motion for BAs to affiliate with a 501(c)3 umbrella organization and a motion for BAs to investigate forming their own 501(c)3 to which future donations could be made. Liz seconded. Discussion followed.

Jon moved to proceed with voting on the motion. Jay seconded.  
MOTION PASSED with 23 for, 1 opposed and no abstentions.

There was a request to divide the question and there were no objections.

Jay moved for the existing committee to investigate setting up their own 501(c)3 on behalf of the Budget Advocates. Jon seconded.  
MOTION PASSED. Roll Call vote with 13 for, 8 opposed and 3 abstentions.

Jay moved for BAs to affiliate with a 501(c)3 umbrella organization to which future donations could be made. Liz seconded.  
MOTION PASSED with 23 for, 1 opposed and no abstentions.

Motion by Committee for BAs to go after NCs by using the NC Sustainability Alliance model. Jon seconded.

Garry moved to refer this back to Committee. Jay seconded.  
Discussion followed.

Glenn moved to amend Garry's motion to refer the motion back to the Ad Hoc Committee and to the Bylaws Committee. Jon seconded.

WITHOUT OBJECTION, MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED BY  
ACCLAMATION.

14. Introduction of committee paper(s) ready for distribution: Liz circulated three committee papers for informational purposes; suggestions can be sent to the writers.
15. CIS to amplify Budget Advocate papers and related concerns through the Neighborhood Councils: Discussion followed.  
  
Garry moved to approve the CIS in circulation. Jon seconded.  
MOTION PASSED with 18 for and 6 abstentions.
16. Status Budget Rep & NC contacts and BA NC assignments reporting: Jennifer reminded all Budget Advocates about the importance of visiting their Neighborhood Councils and updating their Region's tracking sheet.
17. Update on Budget Advocate social media: Julia is developing guidelines regarding posting for outreach. She will check with Kristina about the website redirecting to .com, instead of .org.

18. Status Budget Advocates Town Hall: Julia reported the Town Hall will be discussed at the next Outreach meeting.

19. New Business:

-Jennifer asked Jay to look at what can be done to help any new members get up to speed, now that Jay is Vice Chair of Development.

-Carol invited anyone interested in participating on the Bylaws Committee to contact her.

-The West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness will be holding a Virtual Town Hall on November 30, 5 pm featuring the City Controller who will discuss his audit of the HHH funding. Registration open to all interested persons at WVNAH.org.

20. Adjournment: Glenn moved to adjourn at 12:11 pm. Jon seconded.  
MOTION PASSED BY ACCLAMATION.

The next Budget Advocate meeting will be on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm  
Please submit items for consideration to the Co-Chairs by November 30<sup>th</sup>

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Minutes of Budget Advocate meeting #11 (November 21)

ELSPETH WEINGARTEN  
November 24, 2020

NCBA APPROVED: December 7, 2020