



Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

Zoom Meeting

November 18, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting #8 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Kevin Davis	Present	1	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	1	David Hunter	Present	7
Lionel Mares	Present	1	-----	-----	7
Brian Allen	Present	2	Lynda Valencia	Absent	8
Garry Fordyce	Present at 9:43 a.m.	2	-----	-----	8
Scott Wright	Absent	2	-----	-----	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	3	Elias Garcia	Absent	9
David Uebersax	Present	3	-----	-----	9
Jamie York	Excused	3	-----	-----	9
Howard Katchen	Present	4	Jennifer Goodie	Excused	10
Brandon Pender	Present	4	Skei Saulnier	Present until 10:57 a.m.	10
-----	-----	4	-----	-----	10
Jack Humphreville	Absent	5	Jay Handal	Excused	11
-----	-----	5	Kay Hartman	Present	11
-----	-----	5	Adriana de la Cruz	Present until 10:54 a.m.	11
Ernesto Castro	Absent	6	Sheryl Akerblom	Present	12
-----	-----	6	Melanie Labrecque	Present at 9:43 a.m.	12
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- I. Welcome and Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Kay Hartman at 9:39 a.m., with a full quorum in attendance.
- II. Roll Call – See above.
 - A. Also in attendance were Budget Representatives: Jens Midthun (Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council), Lena Ayvasian (Canoga Park Neighborhood Council), Miran Kalaydjian (Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council / President, Winnetka Neighborhood Council), Theresa Maysonet (United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council), Connie Martinez (Treasurer, Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council), Theresa Maysonet (United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council), Helen Fallon (Treasurer, Venice Neighborhood Council) and Leslie Weisberg (Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council).
- III. MOTION. To approve minutes from meeting #5 October 2, 2023 and #6 from October 21, 2023 and #7 from November 6, 2023 – Minutes not yet available for approval.
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Announcements

A. Announcements from DONE – John Darnell

1. John Darnell shared an update with Glenn Bailey, saying that he would begin efforts next week on reserving the Council Chambers and the tenth-floor meeting rooms for Budget Day. Glenn encouraged him to submit announcements for Budget Advocates meetings, if not attending.

VI. New Business

A. Letter to the Mayor requesting funding for Budget Day – Jennifer Goodie

1. Jennifer has been preparing a letter to the Mayor to request the partial cost of Budget Day on behalf of the Budget Advocates. Kay Hartman and Glenn Bailey heard from John Darnell and Blair at DONE that the department is putting \$10,000 into its budget request “for budget advocacy and Budget Day.”
2. The Executive Committee will develop a strategy for Budget Advocates to move forward on the issue. The passed motion can be used to file a comment under Council File 24-0600, for the new budget.

MOTION by Glenn Bailey that the Budget Advocates support the request made by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for the \$10,000 specified for their full budget package to fund their Neighborhood Council Budget Day, second by Brian Allen, and passed with 14 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstention.

MOTION by Brian Allen to reconsider this motion to say that, until a strategy is addressed, Budget Advocates are not to mention the motion to anyone, second by Kay Hartman and **FAILED** with 3 yes, 8 noes, and 4 abstentions.

B. Meeting with Mayor Bass. Where do we want to do it? Day or night?

1. Discussion on scheduling the meeting at lunch time with a hybrid option available. A reminder to check the Neighborhood Council meeting schedule, should an evening meeting become necessary. Suggestions of:
 - i. Cindy Cleghorn suggested a Boyle Heights location, scheduled on a Saturday.
 - ii. Cindy Cleghorn suggested a Hollywood location on Fountain Avenue.
 - iii. Brandon Pender suggested board rooms at the Getty House.
 - iv. City Hall: centrally located, with parking and public transit.

C. MOTION to have Budget Advocates committee meetings be public meetings

1. The meetings would not have to be advertised to the public, but the public would be let in if they attend.
2. All attendees would be required to identify themselves.
 - i. Discussion on the importance of transparency and on the possible dangers of members being attacked individually as public figures.
 - ii. The Bylaws were found to cite that “people who are not Budget Advocates are welcome to participate in all regularly held Budget Advocates meetings and Budget Advocates committees.”

MOTION by Kay Hartman that all Budget Advocates meetings, including committee meetings, be designated as public, second by Sheryl Akerblom.

MOTION by Glenn Bailey that the issue be referred to the Bylaws Committee and agendaized for the next meeting, second by Garry Fordyce, and passed with 13 yes, 1 no, and 1 abstention.

VII. Old Business

A. Budget meeting with Armando Ruiz

1. Kay Hartman and Glenn Bailey are trying to secure a budget meeting with Armando Ruiz to discuss the group’s budget request: how the department intends to allocate the budget advocacy money and the \$10,000 being added to the budget. Blair said a meeting could be possible next week. This could present an opportunity to ask questions of General Manager Vanessa Serrano, if she attends.

B. Vacancies (Cindy Cleghorn) - Seeking Budget Advocates for the following regions – One each in regions 4, 7, 10 and 12, and two each in regions 5, 6, 8, and 9. Election(s) in progress – update.

1. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Co-Chairs or Parliamentarian.
2. Cindy has completed the elections for Region 7, with Connie Acosta.

3. This week she will be distributing elections for regions 4, 10 and 12, to fill a single seat in each region. This will be completed on December 1.
 4. Vacancies in regions 5, 6, 8 and 9 will be addressed next, filling two seats in each region.
 5. Discussion will be held on regions 9 and 10 and on Neighborhood Councils that have no Budget Representatives.
- C. Town Hall with Controller Kenneth Mejia – Empowerment Congress, January 2024?
1. The Executive Committee is discussing the possibility of arranging the event in collaboration with the Empowerment Congress of Neighborhoods in January 2024.
- D. Visiting Neighborhood Councils to make Budget Advocates Reports – assignments? Any challenges?
1. Budget Advocates are asked to ensure they are visiting their Neighborhood Councils regularly to provide reports. Each Council should be visited at least once a quarter – every other month, if possible.
- E. Business Cards update
1. Cindy Cleghorn has the templates ready and will have them printed upon confirming the personal information of those ordering them.
- F. CF 11-1020-S3 (Budget Advocacy vs. Advocates) and NC Contributions
1. The motion is expected to pass. Co-chairs are waiting for determination on wording and to secure a budget meeting with the department.
- G. Restoring annual Neighborhood Council budget allocation - CIS template wording
1. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N67vTVHfndwmhpkIGJhfbWD9k6F-dLVg/view?usp=drive_link
 2. MOTION to approve sending this letter to the NCs
 - i. Kay Hartman reviewed the wording of the letter and postponed discussion to the next meeting, with no objections.
- H. Department Meetings
1. David Hunter reviewed the list to confirm the status of meetings scheduled by committees with their designated departments.
- I. Who do you know who is a Budget Rep who is not in this list?
1. Members are asked to update the list, or contact Co-Chairs with any current information on Neighborhood Council Budget Representatives, presidents or treasurers.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee – Glenn Bailey and Kay Hartman, Co-chairs
1. Next meeting is scheduled for December 9 at 1:30 p.m.
- B. Finance Committee – Brian Allen, Chair
1. The City will be supplying \$10,000 for “budget advocacy.” Financial reports are up to date through October and will be reviewed at the next meeting. Brian will follow up regarding reimbursements. Kristina has received payment from June forward. Brian received DONE’s most recent report and has confirmed that expenditures are the same, with the exception of reimbursements to Barbara and John DiGregorio.
- C. Outreach Committee – Jennifer Goodie, Chair – Not present
- D. Bylaws Committee – Cindy Cleghorn, Chair
1. Cindy will work on Bylaws after elections are completed. Please review existing Bylaws and submit any notes to Cindy.
- E. Training and Education Committee – Kevin Davis, Chair – No report
- F. Ad Hoc Editing Committee – Kay Hartman, Chair – No report
- G. Ad Hoc Budget Day Committee
1. Kay Hartman, Glenn Baeley, and Melanie Labrecque met with John Darnell to review the budget. He is planning a second meeting in January and provided the group with Liz’s handbook for planning Budget Day. Budget figures were based on those of the Congress of Neighborhoods, which has already convened in person in 2023 and has adjusted numbers for inflation.

IX. Informational Items

- A. Controller Report Relative to Recommendations to more effectively Prepare the City of Los Angeles for Emergencies – [CF 22-1258](#)
- B. [Controller's Revenue Forecast](#)
- C. L.A.REPAIR Cohort1 Program design and voting results – [CF 21-1187](#)
- D. [Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes](#)
- E. [Mayor's 2023-2024 Budget Summary](#)
- F. **NEW:** [First Financial Status Report](#) for Fiscal Year 2023-24 (127 pages) – [CF 23-0600-S110](#)
- G. Mayor's [Executive Directive #5 "Improving Customer Service"](#) (MyLA311) issued October 30, 2023.
- H. Any new Council Files?
 - i. [Preliminary Financial Report for FY 2022-2023.](#)
- X. Upcoming Meetings and Events –
 - 1. ~~BONC: Monday, November 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. CANCELED~~
 - 2. Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.
 - 3. HAPPY THANKSGIVING: November 23, 2023
 - 4. LANCC: Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
 - 5. Budget Advocates: Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
 - 6. BONC: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
 - 7. NC Budget Day: Saturday, June 15, 2024
- XI. Items for Future Meeting Agendas
 - A. Email items to LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com
- XII. Adjournment – Co-Chair Kay Hartman adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.
Next meeting on December 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of Budget Advocate Meeting #8 (November 18, 2023)
ELSPETH WEINGARTEN
December 3, 2023