



Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

Zoom Meeting

October 2, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting #5 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Kevin Davis	Present at 7:15 p.m.	1	Barbara Ringuette	Excused	7
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	1	David Hunter	Present	7
-----	-----	1	-----	-----	7
Brian Allen	Present	2	Lynda Valencia	Present	8
Garry Fordyce	Present	2	-----	-----	8
Scott Wright	Present	2	-----	-----	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	3	Elias Garcia	Absent	9
David Uebersax	Absent	3	-----	-----	9
Jamie York	Present	3	-----	-----	9
Howard Katchen	Present at 7:41 p.m.	4	Jennifer Goodie	Present at 7:09 p.m.	10
Brandon Pender	Present	4	Skei Saulnier	Absent	10
-----	-----	4	-----	-----	10
Jack Humphreville	Present until 8:27 p.m.	5	Jay Handal	Absent	11
-----	-----	5	Kay Hartman	Present	11
-----	-----	5	Adriana De La Cruz	Present at 7:30 p.m.	11
Ernesto Castro	Absent	6	Sheryl Akerblom	Present	12
-----	-----	6	Melanie Labrecque	Absent	12
-----	-----	6	-----	-----	12

- I. Welcome and Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Kay Hartman at 7:04 p.m., with 12 members in attendance. Quorum was reached at 7:15 p.m.
- II. Roll Call – See above for attendance.
Also in attendance were Lena Ayvasian (Canoga Park Neighborhood Council), Irene Birmingham, (Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council), Charles Allen (Empowerment Congress West Neighborhood Council) and Budget Representatives: Lionel Mares (Sun Valley Neighborhood Council), Leslie Weisberg (Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council), Tess Taylor (Greater Toluca Lake, Neighborhood Council) and Miran Kalaydjian (Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council / President, Winnetka Neighborhood Council).
- III. Approval of minutes from meeting #4 September 16, 2023
Brandon Pender moved to approve the minutes from meeting #4 on September 16, 2023. Adriana De La Cruz seconded.
MOTION PASSED, with 12 yes, 0 no, and 4 abstentions.
- IV. Public Comment on non-agenda items within subject matter jurisdiction

- A. Lionel announced that the Los Angeles Ethics Commission released accusations against Councilmember John Lee for ethical violations.
- B. Tess Taylor applauded the number of Budget Advocates at the Congress of Neighborhood.

V. Announcements

- A. Announcements from DONE – John Darnell – Not present

VI. New Business

- A. Discussion - The cost of labor agreements - Outlook2023-24 (Jack Humphreville)
 - 1. Jack gave a brief presentation regarding the outlook on the cost of labor agreements for FY 2023-24. A synopsis of the four-year budget outlook was submitted by the Chief Administrative Officer at the beginning of summer. Revenue numbers are projected to go up 2-4%, consistent with most years. The CAO provided numbers indicating a budget gap of \$123 million in 2023 and \$173 million in 2024. This is projected to increase to \$1 billion the following year. These numbers do not include projected increases in the Police or Fire Departments. The current 21-22% of City vacancies are factored into the report.

VII. Old Business

- A. Vacancies (Cindy Cleghorn) - Seeking Budget Advocates for the following regions – One each in regions 1, 4, 7, 10 and 12, and two each in regions 5, 6, 8, and 9.
 - 1. Cindy Cleghorn will be sending out election notices and will recognize individual Budget Representatives who have expressed interest in running and who have been confirmed for eligibility. Cindy will update Co-Chairs on the status of each region before sending out details.
- B. Report from tabling at the Congress of Neighborhoods Exhibitor Fair and City Budget 101 workshop (Jacob Wexler of CAO's office)
 - 1. Sheryl Akerblom and Jennifer Goodie tabled at the Congress of Neighborhoods Exhibitors Fair. Excess tri-fold and flyer printouts will be sufficient for use at Budget Day.
 - 2. Jacob Wexler presented the Budget Advocates' annual City Budget 101 workshop. About 25 attendees were present.
- C. Town Hall with Kenneth Mejia
 - 1. Jennifer Goodie will schedule an Outreach committee meeting to begin arranging the event. Jamie York will work with Jennifer and will ask the Controller to participate.
- D. Visiting NCs to make Budget Advocates Reports - assignments? any challenges?
 - 1. Budget Advocates are reminded to visit their Neighborhood Councils to provide reports and hear constituent concerns. Each Council should be visited at least once a quarter; members sharing a region should divide responsibilities. Please inform Co-chairs which member will be covering which Neighborhood Council, so constituents can be provided with a point of contact. Notice whether hybrid meeting options might be available, to make scheduling easier.
 - 2. November 14 will be the last day for SB-411 to be approved or vetoed. Hybrid meeting options could make it easier for members to attend additional meetings.
- E. Business Cards
 - 1. David Uebersax and Garry Fordyce requested personalized cards. Does anybody else want some?
 - i. Garry Fordyce, Howard Katchen, Brandon Pender, and David Uebersax have requested personalized cards and will coordinate details offline. Members should contact Co-Chairs to request personalized business cards.
 - 2. FUNDING MOTION to authorize the Budget Advocates to spend up to \$200 to print business cards

Jennifer amended the motion to say "up to \$300." Glenn seconded the motion, as amended. MOTION PASSED, with 14 yes, 1 no, and 1 abstention.
- F. CF 11-1020-S3 (Budget Advocacy vs. Advocates) and NC Contributions
 - 1. Glenn and Kay are pursuing a meeting with the interim GM
 - 2. Petty Santos (City Clerk's office) is appearing at VANC in October. Glenn and Kay will communicate with her in advance.
 - i. Petty Santos oversees the Neighborhood Council elections and the Neighborhood Council funding program in the City Clerk's office. She will be appearing at VANC in October to hear concerns about financial contributions to the Budget Advocates being

denied. Co-chairs Glenn Bailey and Kay Hartman plan to communicate with her in advance and are still solidifying a message to communicate to her.

G. Restoring annual Neighborhood Council budget allocation - CIS template

1. A motion was passed at the previous meeting to create a template CIS calling for the restoration of Neighborhood Council budgets to pre-pandemic levels. Jennifer Goodie will be reaching out to Heath Kline (Woodland Hills Neighborhood Council), who spearheaded the study, for more information. While tabling at the Congress of Neighborhoods, Jennifer gathered a list of Neighborhood Council members interested and willing to help with the issue. Many Neighborhood Councils have expressed interest.
2. The Council File for this matter will be 24-0600, which will be available in Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

H. Department Meetings - start scheduling for October

1. Kay Goodie reviewed the sign-up spreadsheet to determine which members will cover which departments. Members must work with their committee members to begin making appointments with the departments for October, if possible.

I. Mayor's Budget Policy Letter for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 - will be released soon

1. This is a significant document that details the Mayor's direction specifying what she is seeking within departmental budgets. Please review it to become familiar with what departments are being asked, and with how they'll be structuring their budgets to comply with the Mayor's requests.

J. Who do you know who is a Budget Rep who is not in this [list](#)?

1. Kay Hartman reviewed the spreadsheet of Budget Representatives and accepted updates from attendees.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Kay Hartman/Glenn Bailey)

1. All items have been discussed. The committee is meeting on the second Saturday of each month.

B. Finance Committee (Brian Allen)

1. Brian will be scheduling a committee meeting and is currently finalizing the financial report. Budget Advocates have a total of \$47,000, with \$2,802 in bills to be paid. Priority will be given to the Mailroom. Brian will be working with DONE to determine what can be done to advance the situation and to confirm the status of reimbursements to Kay and Jennifer. No further reports have been made available by the City Controller.

C. Outreach Committee (Jennifer Goodie)

1. Jennifer will call a meeting to begin work on the Town Hall.

D. Bylaws Committee (Cindy Cleghorn)

1. Cindy will work on Bylaws once elections are completed.

E. Training and Education Committee (Kevin Davis)

1. Kevin will reach out this week to schedule a meeting in October.

F. Ad Hoc Editing Committee

1. Contact Kay to join the committee. Kay, Miran, Glenn and David Hunter will participate.

G. Ad Hoc Budget Day Committee

1. A meeting will be held in November to discuss planning with John Darnell for the in-person event. A meeting must be scheduled prior to this for preparations.

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 Cohort 1 Program design and voting results. - CF 21-1187](#)

D. [4th Financial Status Report released - CF 22-0600-S104](#)

E. [Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes](#)

F. [Mayor's 2023-2024 Budget Summary](#)

G. [Any new Council Files?](#)

X. Upcoming Meetings and Events

A. [BONC: Monday, October 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.](#)

- B. LANCC: Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
- C. Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.
- D. BONC: Monday, October 16, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
- E. Budget Advocates: Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
- F. Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

XI. Items for Future Meeting Agendas

- A. Email items to LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com

XII. Adjournment – Kay Hartman adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Next meeting on October 21, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes of Budget Advocate Meeting #5 (October 2)

ELSPETH WEINGARTEN

October 14, 2023