

# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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Neighborhood Empowerment Office, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Suite 2005, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Monday, June 5, 2017

7:00 pm

## Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Absent	9	Keith Kirkwood	Absent	5
Brian Allen	Present	2	Jon Liberman	Present by Phone (7:20)	11
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Monica Massey	Absent	12
Julie Burg	Excused	10	Michael Menjivar	Present by Phone	4
Kevin Davis	Absent	1	William Morrison	Absent	8
Adrienne Edwards	Present by Phone	6	Carol Newman	Present by Phone	3
Amy Foell	Present by Phone	7	Christopher Perry	Absent	9
Cindy Wu Freeman	Absent	2	Ava Post	Absent	6
Craig Goldfarb	Absent	12	Rick Ramirez	Present by Phone	1
Valaida Gory	Present by Phone	10	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Jay Handal	Present by Phone	11	Marcus Rodriguez	Absent	7
Jeanette Hopp	Present	4	Danielle Sandoval	Present by Phone (7:30 pm)	12
James Hornik	Present	6	Patrick Seamans	Absent	5
Jack Humphreville	Excused	5	Lynda Valencia	Absent	8
Ann Job	Absent	1	Krisna Velasco	Absent	2
Howard Katchen	Present by Phone	4	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Absent	3
Jacqueline Kennedy	Present by Phone	4	Vacant Seat		3
Brigette Kidd	Present by Phone	9	Vacant Seat		10

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by Co-Chair Liz Amsden.
2. **Roll Call**: A quorum of 17 Budget Advocates was present (see list above). New Budget Representative Hank Williams from Olympic Park Neighborhood Council, and John Darnell, DONE's Director of Policy and Government Relations, were also present.
3. **Public Comment** – None
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #21 (May 20<sup>th</sup>)**  
Motion to approve the minutes for meeting #21 on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 passed with 15 yeses (Allen, Amsden, Edwards, Foell, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Hornik, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Menjivar, Newman, Ramirez, and Ringuette), 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and Liberman and Sandoval yet to come on the phone.
5. **Treasurer's Report** – Howard Katchen reported that DONE advised that the DONE account of \$10,000 has been completely depleted, and the NC account now has a balance of \$29,520.43 with Budget Day expenses to come. An agreement is now in place with DONE for more timely updates.
6. **Report on funding of Budget Advocates by Neighborhood Councils** – Howard reported that he just received a report from DONE today that shows that 17 NCs have contributed \$13,825. In addition, Jay advised that Central Hollywood was contributing \$5,000 and Valley Village \$250.

7. **Review and possible motion to approve BAs' responses to the CAO's response on the White Paper and submit to the CAO and City Council** – Brian will finalize his comments this week into a one-page report and circulate for comments prior to the next meeting (he will be absent). Any further input from Budget Advocates should be e-mailed to him asap. In addition, Brian and Barbara discussed the need to meet with the CAO and address how they came up with the responses (not to debate the issues). Some Budget Advocates present expressed concern that the response not sound like whining but those present generally supported a constructive approach to continue pushing for improvement in the City's budgeting process. Brian said that Krekorian had challenged the Budget Advocates to hold the CAO accountable. We *should* be stepping up and taking a more can-do approach if we want change.
8. **Update on Jack and Brian's CityWatch articles**: Brian is still gathering information on the need for a City Manager. On the issue of having Budget Advocates meet with the Departments prior to their developing budget strategies for FY 2018-19, some people expressed concern about the time constraints of a real embedding in the process and Howard felt there might be landmines in pushing our input before the Mayor's budget directive. Jay and Liz felt that Budget Advocates should be contributing to the policies and development of next year's budgets rather than reacting after-the-fact. Jon felt it was up to next year's Budget Advocates but Liz pointed out that we needed to lay the groundwork so the option existed for the incoming BAs. Several people pointed out that Budget Advocates need to develop more proficiency about the specific issues and/or bring in people with more expertise in these areas. Jay said if we don't try, we will never get anywhere and Brian seconded this by pointing out that both the Budget Advocates and the City budgeting process need to change or fail.
9. **Review and approval of agenda and timing for Budget Day** – Jay Handel will distribute a final agenda before the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting for discussion and approval.
10. **Update and further assignments with regards to Budget Day** – (Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>) Jay will send out a Googledoc for people to sign up for specific assignments including set-up, registration, guiding people to the plenary session and 10<sup>th</sup> floor, and coordinating the breakout sessions.
11. **Confirmation of room, catering, parking, RSVPs, press, Channel 35, note-takers, breakout session agendas and logistics, BA pins, etc.** – Catering is confirmed. Jay is trying to get the event moved to Council Chambers so it will be easier to get Channel 35 coverage. John Darnell to follow up on updating Jay and Liz on those who have registered.
12. **Discussion and possible motion to approve Budget Day hand-outs** – Still to be determined. Some of the materials under discussion are more appropriate for the Budget Advocate retreat and training than for general Budget Day attendees. Danielle will create a trifold about Budget Advocates for Budget Day and Liz suggested that they create a one-page list with links to items of interest including the full White Paper, the 2020 Commission report and the Budget Advocate website.
13. **List of Budget Reps to date, suggestions on potential Budget Advocate candidates** – People who RSVP for Budget Day are supposed to indicate if they are their NC's Budget Representative but some may not have been appointed and, historically, others misunderstand the question and indicate they are creating confusion when time comes for the elections. Jay will request Neighborhood Councils e-mail Liz the appointed Budget Representatives' names with phone numbers and e-mail addresses. ***All Budget Advocates*** are to contact the Neighborhood Councils for which they are responsible to clarify that Budget Representatives can be stakeholders as well as board members, to ensure two are appointed for each NC, and to solicit and encourage potential Budget Advocates to come to Budget Day and run for office.
14. **Update on Budget Advocates/Budget Representatives 101 for Congress of Neighborhoods workshop** – Tabled for next year's Budget Advocates to address.

**15. Discussion and possible motion to approve the Budget Advocates’ report on addressing the marijuana framework needed by the City, specifically with regards to costs and financing**

This is supposed to be a position paper not a report. However, Brian said Herb Wesson thinks a draft of the proposed policy will be circulated before the end of June, and it would probably be more appropriate to frame the Budget Advocates’ position in response to these guidelines. Given new Budget Advocates will be elected shortly, Liz suggested that this project be deferred for the incoming Budget Advocates to address. Motion by **Liz Amsden** to approve such deferral, seconded by **Barbara Ringuette**, and passed with 17 yeases (Allen, Amsden, Edwards, Foell, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Hornik, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Menjivar, Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, and Sandoval), 0 noes, 0 abstentions.

**16. Discussion and possible motion to approve Budget Advocates motion that no City entity be allowed to request NC funding for material that should be provided for in their budget**

Jay reframed the issue and will circulate his language to all Budget Advocates later this week. Budget Advocates will have three days to make comments and then Jay will send it out. Motion by **Liz Amsden** to approve this approach, seconded by **Barbara Ringuette**, and passed with 16 yeases (Allen, Amsden, Edwards, Foell, Handal, Hopp, Hornik, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Liberman, Menjivar, Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, and Sandoval), 0 noes, 1 abstention (Gory).

**17. Discussion fo committee’s suggestions on developing a more equitable funding model for Neighborhood Councils; determination on next steps**

– Brian reported that the committee has not met and he needs historical information. Liz reported the issue is also being addressed by BONC due to the patent unfairness of Hermen NC, which represents about 3,000 stakeholders, receiving the same funding as Wilshire Center-Koreatown which has over 100,000. They are supposed to appoint a working group. he last time this was addressed by BONC there was no consensus and the issue was dropped.

**18. Housekeeping**

- a. File drawers still need to be moved and the Budget Advocates’ assets transferred from the DONE offices to the West Los Angeles Municipal Building.
- b. Brian advised that Polycom, the company he has been talking to about internet video conferencing options, does not do demos. However, they are willing to send out a \$10,000 unit for us to try although we are looking to purchase a less expensive (\$3,000 to \$4,000) model. Brian will check out insurance issues and advise before pursuing further.

**19. New Business** - Jay emphasized the need for Budget Advocates to contact every NC and have them send the names, phone numbers and email addresses of their new Budget Representatives to Liz and Jay.

**20. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm. The next (last) scheduled meeting will be at 10 am on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at the West LA Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom  
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates