

## **Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates 2015/16 – Meeting #8**

Neighborhood Empowerment Office, City Hall

200 North Spring Street, Suite 2005, Los Angeles, CA 90012

December 7, 2015 – 7 pm

### **1. Roll Call**

Terence Gomes, Jon Liberman, Linda Lee, Sue Reimers, Glenn Bailey, Liz Amsden, Barbara Ringuette, Jeanette Hopp, Ayana McCowan, Veronica Torres-Matthews, Patrick Seamans, Kevin Davis, Danielle Sandoval, Krystee Clark and Howard Katchen

### **2. Welcome new BAs**

Postponed

### **3. Presentation by Matt Szabo and John Chavez on long range budgeting approach**

John Chaves introduced himself and Deputy Mayor Matt Szabo and advised that they were present to discuss the City's long-range plans. Matt Szabo connected the Mayor's plans to achieve structural balance and restoration of services in as well as a programmatic approach to managing the City. Mr. Chavez referred to plans for the Los Angeles River, deferred maintenance, sidewalks, homelessness, the Parker Center, the LA Mall, and updating the City's fleet cars to enhance fuel efficiency. Mr. Szabo and Mr. Chavez responded to comments and suggestions from Jeanette Hopp, Terence Gomes, Jon Liberman, Liz Amsden, Barbara Ringuette, Scott Bytof and Glenn Bailey. Mr. Bailey clarified for the Minutes that his comment regarding DOT concerned the availability of employees to do the work proposed, not that DOT does not have staff to write grants. Mr. Bailey stated that DOT made a conscious decision not to apply for particular grant funds. Terence Gomes suggested that there should be oversight of grant requests and renewals. Barbara Ringuette suggested that this issue be included in the white paper. It was agreed that a formal review and assessment of each City department's mission statement be conducted.

### **4. Public Comment**

Gracye Liu conveyed compliments received from City of Los Angeles regarding Budget Advocate activities.

Barbara Ringuette advised that a town hall on homelessness will take place on Thursday, December 17, 6:30pm at the Holy Virgin Mary Russian Church.

### **5. Approval of minutes – August 15<sup>th</sup> & November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Postponed

### **6. Treasurer's report**

Glenn Bailey requested that the Treasurer's Report be sent in advance of the meeting. Howard Katchen stated that expenditures were still being reviewed by DONE. Terence Gomes asked that a ledger be prepared that lists all expenditures.

### **7. Report back on how to obtain more timely updates on spending, transparency of Budget Advocates accounts**

Howard Katchen stated that he would prepare a report that correctly reports how much was received from the Neighborhood Councils. Mr. Katchen stated that the BAs have approximately \$28,000 in two accounts.

### **8. Housekeeping issues**

#### **a. Parking Passes**

No one advised of a need for a parking pass.

b. Business Cards

Corrected business cards will be requested.

9. Update/Addition of new Budget Advocates for Regions 5, 9 & 12

Postponed

10. Strike Committee to address mentoring and training of incoming Budget Advocates

Linda Lee will send out an email requesting committee members for this new committee.

**11. Suggestions/discussion for more directed outreach for next year – not only Regional Budget Days but also, Budget Day, additional input through the year, etc. from committee (Harvey, Fanny, Linda, Joanne)**

Scott Bytof advised that the committee recommended re-imagining Regional Budget Day to allow stakeholders a preview of the proposed white paper to allow for stakeholder feedback prior to submitting the document.

**12. Report back on response to Service Report Cards & plans to tabulate**

Krystee Clark advised that 867 survey responses had been received to date. The survey deadline has been extended to January 15, 2016, at Barbara Ringuette's suggestion.

**13. Status Committee Reports**

CAO: Barbara Ringuette advised that she and Joanne Yvanek Garb will each submit a report

Animal Service – complete

Aging – complete

City Attorney's office – Terrence Gomes will facilitate meeting setup

Building & Safety – in progress

City Clerk – a report is forthcoming, however, there are no recommendations

Contract Administration – a report is forthcoming

Controller – in progress

Convention Center – a report is forthcoming

Cultural Affairs – in progress

Disability – Patrick Seamans sent recommendations but a report has not been received

Economic and Workforce Development – a report is in progress

EL PUEBLO – complete

Emergency Management - unknown

Employee Relations – unknown

Engineering - unknown

LACERS and LAF&PP - unknown

Public Works/Engineering – in progress

Ethics - unknown

Finance - unknown

LAFD - unknown

General Services- a report is forthcoming

Housing – a report is forthcoming  
Information Technology – Liz will follow up with Brett  
Library - complete  
DONE - complete  
Personnel – a report is forthcoming  
Planning – unknown  
Police - unknown  
Public Works – a report is forthcoming  
Recreation & Parks –  
Street Lighting  
Sanitation – a report is forthcoming  
Street Services – a report is forthcoming  
Transportation – in progress  
Unions – in progress  
Zoo - unknown

**14. Status White Paper**

Liz Amsden reported that a draft white paper was circulated last week and input had been received.

**15. Discussion on sending reports & recommendations to departments (Liz)**

Postponed

**16. Report back on Service Report Cards**

Discussed above.

**17. Discussion on committees to meet with Councilmembers, any other elected?**

Terence Gomes suggested that the discussion should be with Los Angeles Councilmembers. It was agreed that one BA for each council district should take point for setting up meetings.

**18. Report back on updating of NCBALA website**

Scott Bytoff reported on his review of the website.

**19. Update on Homelessness committee**

Barbara Ringuette reported on meetings with the Planning Department, Building and Safety, CAO, Department of Housing and Community Investment with the intent to determine who will do what and stated that there is no information except for mention of a linkage fee. Ms. Ringuette stated that her efforts were appropriate because less funds would be needed for City funded efforts on homelessness and affordable housing if grant opportunities were pursued.

**20. Update on budget-related Council File identification, recommendations & sending though BRs to NCs for CIS support**

Glenn Bailey advised that he will be continuously reviewing and asked for all Budget Advocates to watch out as well. Mr. Bailey also requested that BAs should encourage the Neighborhood Councils to file Community Impact statements on budget related items.

**21. Address potential conflict with Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Alliance meeting**

Terry Gomes reported that he would request that the Alliance meeting be pushed back to the

afternoon. Glenn Bailey advised that a time as already been announced and suggested that the BA meeting scheduled for that day should take place in the afternoon.

**22. New business**

Scott Bytoff listed a number of concerns regarding the proposed additional football team

**23. Items for future discussion**

Climate Change & Sustainability will be considered once the white paper is complete.

**24. Adjournment**

Next scheduled meeting will *tentatively* be 10 am at the West LA City Hall on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>