

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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

Monday, September 26, 2016

7:00 pm

Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Absent	9	Jacqueline Kennedy	Present	11
Brian Allen	Present	2	Brigette Kidd	Present (7:40 pm)	9
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Keith Kirkwood	Notified absence	5
Simone Best	Notified absence	3	Jon Liberman	Notified absence	11
Julie Burg	By Phone	10	Michael Menjivar	Absent	4
Robert Campbell	Resigned	12	William Morrison	By Phone	8
Kjiel Carlson	Absent	10	Carol Newman	By Phone	3
Kevin Davis	Absent	1	Christopher Perry	Absent	9
Adrienne Edwards	Present	6	Rick Ramirez	Present	1
Amy Foell	Notified absence	7	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Craig Goldfarb	By Phone	12	Marcus Rodriguez	Notified absence	7
Valaida Gory	By Phone	10	Danielle Sandoval	Present (7:10 pm)	12
Jay Handal	Present	11	Patrick Seamans	Absent	5
Jeanette Hopp	Present	4	Nicholas Soto	Resigned	8
James Hornik	Present (7:40 pm)	6	Rocky Valenzuela	Absent	6
Jack Humphreville	Present (7:10 pm)	5	Krisna Velasco	Absent	2
Ann Job	Present	1	Farid Youssif	Absent	2
Howard Katchen	By phone (7:50 pm)	4	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Present	3

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Co-Chair Jay Handal.
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum of 20 board members was present (see list above). Carol Derby, Budget Rep from Park Mesa attended in person and Ava Post, Budget Rep from Olympic Park by phone. Mike Fong from DONE and Scott Ferness, a USC student with Annenberg TV, were also present.
3. **Public Comment:**
 - a. Mike Fong commented on several items
 - i. They want all Neighborhood Councils to have a homelessness advocate/liaison.
 - ii. Only 49 Community Impact Statements (CIS) have been filed so far and they want more, they will help Neighborhood Councils if they need help.
 - iii. He thanked everyone who attended the Annual Congress of Neighborhoods.
 - b. Brian Allen announced that Alfred Castillo would be the other Budget Rep from Granada Hills North.
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meetings #5:** Approval of the minutes for meeting #5, Saturday, September 17 and revised minutes for Meeting #2, Sunday August 7, were postponed to allow time for review as they went out late.

5. **Treasurer's Report** - Howard Katchen, Treasurer
 - a. A written report was provided by Treasurer Howard Katchen and will be posted on the ncbala.com website. Howard is to follow up with Terrence Gomes on whether the Budget Advocates are responsible for parking costs on Budget Day.
Motion by Jeanette Hopp to approve the Treasurers Report, second by Joanne Yvanek-Garb, and passed with 17 yeses (Allen, Amsden, Burg, Edwards, Goldfarb, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Humphreville, Job, Kennedy, Morrison, Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, Sandoval, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 not yet present (Hornik, Katchen, and Kidd).
 - b. To view the written report please go to <http://ncbala.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Budget-Advocate-Financial-Report-17-August-2016-1-1.pdf>
6. **Housekeeping** – Jay Handal
 - a. Business Cards – Business cards that have not been picked up will be available from Mike Fong at the DONE office.
 - b. Remaining Parking Passes – will also be available from Mike Fong at the DONE office.
 - c. Speaker Phone – The vendor Jay contacted has not responded. Ann Job will research the purchase of a speaker phone.
 - d. Status of BAs' certifications – Jon Lieberman was tasked with contacting all BAs who are listed by DONE as not having completed their Code of Conduct, Finance and Ethics training and helping resolve any remaining status issues.
 - e. Website – The website looks really good.
 - f. Headshots –A request to the Web Master will be made to remove Nicholas Soto and Robert Campbell's headshots as they have resigned. For those who have still not provided headshots please forward them to Liz Amsden as soon as possible.
 - g. Alfredo Castillo has applied to fill the vacant seat for Granada Hills North.
 - h. Danielle Sandoval commented that she would like training in the use of Constant Contact.
7. **Motion to remove Budget Advocates who have missed four (4) consecutive meetings and have not demonstrated other continuing commitment to our mission** – Already addressed via resignations and attendees – no vote needed or taken.
8. **Presentation of Budget Advocate pins to those who did not receive on Budget Day or afterwards** – Mike Fong from DONE presented pins to those present who had not yet received theirs.
9. **Reports on material issues regarding connecting with Budget Reps, Neighborhood Councils and Alliances:**
 - a. After attending NC meetings please fill in the Google doc on line to record which NC meeting you spoke at and the date.
 - b. It is not necessary to stay for the entire meeting.
 - c. Jay Handal has asked all NC chairs to agendize BAs to speak with other elected officials.
10. **Outreach:** Newsletter status
 - a. Jay Handel created and distributed the first newsletter. He has taken over from Krisna Velasco and needs people to write brief articles with links to steer people to the website. The BA executive would like to send out a newsletter every other week with a brief overview of the latest meeting and with articles of what was discussed at it and other meetings which could form the basis of BAs' NC reports.
11. **Survey – Finalize questions** – Danielle Sandoval, Chair
 - a. Danielle Sandoval has still not received any responses or questions from other BAs, accordingly she is creating the questions herself. She took last year's questions and will

use about half of them for this year. She wants to do them in sections i.e. public works, homelessness, etc.

- b. The goal is to have the questions ready for the next meeting. She wants to send out a five question survey with each newsletter.
- c. Jay Handal commented that last year's survey is already in Constant Contact.
- d. BAs, please email Liz Amsden which Council Districts your NC covers, i.e. CDs 1 and 14.

12. **Early White Paper discussion and possible motion to distribute** – Jack Humphreville, Chair

- a. A first preliminary white paper was sent out earlier today.
- b. **Be it resolved that the 2016-2017 initial White Paper has been approved at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, on September 26, 2016, and is being presented to the Mayor and the City Council, for immediate action.**
- c. Modifications to the wording were discussed and Jack Humphreville will make these changes, subject to the co-chairs review prior to submission to the Mayor and the City Council.

Motion by Barbara Ringuette to approve the resolution above, second by Liz Amsden, and passed with 20 yeses (Allen, Amsden, Burg, Edwards, Goldfarb, Gory, Handal, Hopp, Hornik, Humphreville, Job, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Morrison, Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, Sandoval, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 noes, and 0 abstentions.

13. **Committee Reports** – Liz Amsden

- a. Each committee was reviewed and the updated information will be posed on the BAs' online Committee google doc.
- b. Liz Amsden commented that Budget Advocates should start contacting departments NOW to schedule appointments, as many Departments are booked into November and beyond.
- c. She requested that dates and times for the department meetings be posted to the Committees google doc before the next meeting.
- d. Jay Handal advised the Mayor's letter should be available within the week and if it is still has not been issued before any scheduled meeting, they will address with the departments.
- e. Joanne Yvanek-Garb spoke talked to Kevin James of Public Works on Saturday at the Congress, he said to let him know if any of the Public Works departments were uncooperative and he will address.
- f. Liz Amsden suggested BAs work on the questions they will be asking.
- g. Liz Amsden suggested that Budget Representatives and Stakeholders be encouraged to attend any department meeting in which they may have an interest.
- h. Jay Handal reminded everyone that if they need help to please ask for help rather than be overwhelmed and not get the work completed.

14. **White Paper Update** – Jack Humphreville

- a. Jack Humphreville suggested we issue several smaller White Papers by section as opposed to 113 pages like last year.
- b. The preliminary White Paper (see above) should be released to the public and the media and posted on the Budget Advocate website.
- c. Liz Amsden recommended the BA Executive forward the preliminary White Paper recommendations to the departments to which they apply as well as to the CAO and ask for comments as well as request that the issues be agendized.
- d. Liz Amsden noted the reports could be used as the basis of articles for the newsletter.
- e. Jay Handal hand delivered all Budget Advocate resolutions passed to City Council in public comment at Council meetings and noted the City Council is now requiring 35 printed copies of any resolution submitted to Council. He also hand delivers them to the Mayor's office and the CAO, and he requests a report back.

- f. Jay Handal commented that what will make Budget Advocates successful is the process of accountability; the Budget Advocates to the Neighborhood Councils, the Neighborhood Councils to the Budget Advocates and stakeholders, Budget Advocates to City Council and City Council to Budget Advocates. As long as there are those mutual demands on each other, and the Budget Advocates uphold their end, nobody can come back to the Budget Advocates. Budget Advocates are really the citizens oversight committee on budget for the City of Los Angeles.

15. **New Business**

- a. Danielle Sandoval raised concerns relating to storage units being provided for homeless people in every council district and if this was about the homeless or profit-making.
- b. There was a brief discussion on addressing who would be profiting if Measure HHH passed, with Joanne Yvanek-Garb commenting on the refund to the Marriott Corporation by the City as an example of where the City is spending money that should be spent on more pressing issues.
- c. Ann Job announced there would be a Planning 101 class on Saturday, October 8, in Glassell Park from 10 am to 1 pm. She highly recommends the class.

16. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Saturday, October 15, at the West LA Municipal Building at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

Passed as amended