



Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

**Zoom Meeting
August 20, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Meeting #4 Minutes
Board Retreat**

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 10:31	7
Vacant Seat	-----	1	Vacant Seat	-----	7
Brian Allen	Present 9:26	2	Lynda Valencia	Present	8
Garry Fordyce	Present 9:16	2	Samantha McBride	Present	8
Scott Wright	Present	2	Vacant Seat	-----	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	3	Elias Garcia	Present	9
David Uebersax	Present	3	Vacant Seat	-----	9
Vacant Seat	-----	3	Vacant Seat	-----	9
Howard Katchen	Present 9:13	4	Jennifer Goodie	Present	10
Brandon Pender	Present 9:53	4	Vacant Seat	-----	10
Myrra Bolla	Present 9:38	4	Vacant Seat	-----	10
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Jay Handal	Absent	11
Vacant Seat	-----	5	Kay Hartman	Excused	11
Vacant Seat	-----	5	Adriana de la Cruz	Present till 9:57	11
Ernesto Castro	Absent	6	Sheryl Akerblom	Present 9:21	12
Vacant Seat	-----	6	Vacant Seat	-----	12
Vacant Seat	-----	6	Vacant Seat	-----	12

- I. Welcome and Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jennifer Goodie at 9:06am, with a full quorum in attendance.
- II. Roll Call: See above.
Also in attendance were Budget Representatives Miran Kalaydjian (Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council) and Tess Taylor (Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council)
- III. Public Comment: Tess Taylor asked to connect with anyone who has been examining the budget regarding the cost of services provided by the 311 departments.
- IV. Code of Civility/Code of Conduct (attached): Jennifer Goodie reminded members to adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Code of Civility.
- V. NCBA email forwarder: Jennifer Goodie reminded those who received their NBCA e-mail forwarder to click the link to activate it, or contact co-chairs to have it re-sent.
- VI. DISCUSSION. Budget Advocate Goals for 2022-2023:
 - A. Purpose (from the Budget Advocates Bylaws):

1. The purposes of the NCBA is to explore, research, study, seek input, prepare and present the concerns and interests of the communities of the City of Los Angeles (“City”) about the use of City funds, City revenue collection, City budget and budget allocations, efficiency of City government, City finances, City financial obligations and other such concerns as related to financial matters of the City to the Mayor, City Council, Neighborhood Councils, and Stakeholders.

B. Mission (from the Budget Advocates website):

1. Engage with Neighborhood Councils and stakeholders on the City's financial condition
2. Encourage the City to allocate its resources to improve services and quality of life for all Angelenos
3. Advocate for Los Angeles's true potential as one of the world's leading cities
4. Bring transparency to the City's budget process

B. What do you want the Budget Advocates to accomplish this year?

1. Stronger presence at neighborhood council meetings
2. Secure appointment for a regular (instead of alternating) presentation time at Board of Neighborhood Commissioner (BONC) meetings
3. More branding and more advocacy to increase presence and recognition.
4. Making member engagement with the Alliances (LANC, PlanCheck, and other regional Alliances) a more formalized responsibility, with tracked visits.
5. Sharing Council File numbers with Neighborhood Councils and asking them to weigh in on items that have come up.
6. Stronger outreach
7. Better communication with stakeholders: providing information on City services, as well as on projects within the Budget Advocates.
8. Developing an up-to-date list of Budget Representatives.
9. In communications/articles/outreach, including the “bottom line” summary of the report, along with a “call to action” of what readers can do about it.
10. Requesting additional input from Neighborhood Councils about anything happening on their end.
11. Clear communication on what information can be conveyed to Neighborhood Councils, based on discussion in Budget Advocate meetings.
12. More structure around timeliness, release of reports and review of reports when they're released.
13. Increased communication with Neighborhood Councils, regardless of whether monthly reports are published. This could include personal takeaways from a variety of meetings.
14. Publishing a monthly report, with all necessary details.
15. Sending monthly reports to Neighborhood Councils through an e-blast and allowing individual Budget Advocates to follow up directly. This ensures that Neighborhood Councils receive the information regardless, and in a timely manner. Jennifer will talk to Kristina about how to handle the e-blast and billing for it. This will be agendaized for a future meeting to discuss expenses.
16. Designating specific subject areas for investigation, which could then lead to interviews across various departments according to subject matter, instead of interviewing individual departments in isolation from each other.
17. Increasing credibility with Neighborhood Councils, the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and other parts of the City.
18. Starting work now toward building strong relationships with each of the Mayoral candidates.
19. Regarding the White Paper:

- I. Releasing department reports as they become available, instead of waiting for all of them to be ready at once. Then publishing the entire report together, in addition to the individual reports being released.
- II. Focusing on several areas of specific interest within a department, rather than trying to encompass all the information of an entire department. Also bringing in additional people who can add to this information.

20. Regarding actual and proposed ballot measures:

- I. Referring to committees the review and investigation of the City's management of funds in relation to current bills, including:
 - i. Councilmember Koretz's motion to institute a Parcel Tax to fund animal services and animal shelters: Council File #22-0943
 - ii. The Mansion Tax on real estate transactions above \$5 million
 - iii. The Glue LLC contract, paid for by the Animal Welfare Trust Fund
 - iv. The Hotel Worker Protection Initiative, which increased wages for hotel workers, regulated the cleaning of rooms and provided communication devices to protect against sexual assault.
 - v. Administrative Code Section 8.30, allowing the City to commandeer hotel rooms in disaster situations.
 - vi. The Mobility Plan (started 4-5 years ago)

VII. DISCUSSION on Outreach focus. What do we want to focus on? Town halls? Articles? Something else?

- A. Continuing to hold Town Halls and including more participation from the group in deciding topics
- B. Prioritizing planning ahead for the White Paper
- C. Making Budget Day the group's signature event: setting the date in the fall and starting then to send Save-the-Dates and to prepare other details.
- D. Visiting Neighborhood Councils
- E. Outreach
- F. Monthly reports
- G. More e-mail communication
- H. Developing relationships with Mayoral candidates (plus other elected officials, including State Officials) and setting up a Town Hall with them as soon as possible.
- I. Prioritizing holding Budget Day in person, to bring new people to City Hall and new interest to the Budget Advocates.
- J. Adding members to the Outreach Committee
- K. Considering the possibility of inviting individual departments to present reports at the Saturday Budget Advocate meetings, to generate more involvement and to provide a better understanding of the department presenting.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION on Budget Advocates organization.

- A. Current approach is every Budget Advocate does every job. Given [this](#) list of tasks, do we want to organize ourselves differently?
Discussion on the item.
Brian moved that the evening meeting each month be a business meeting. And that the Saturday meetings be anything else. Lynda seconded.
Jennifer moved to refer Brian's motion to the Executive Committee to create a plan and to bring it back to the Budget Advocates. Glenn seconded.
MOTION PASSED, with 15 for and no abstentions.

IX. City Departments and what they do:

- A. Please review the attached documents and think about which departments you are interested in

Barbara distributed a list of City departments, including descriptions of each. Committees are expected to work as teams. This link lists the City Departments and Bureaus, including a website and description for each:

<https://lacity.gov/government/departments-bureaus>

1. (Copied these details from the chat and don't have the name for this first one):
: LADBS & City Planning (will consider other departments if needed)
2. Cindy Cleghorn: Building and Safety, Planning Department, Cannabis
3. Samantha McBride: Recreation and Parks, Cultural Affairs Department
4. Glenn Bailey: Recreation and Parks, Streets Services (StreetsLA), Library, Transportation
5. Lynda Valencia: Sanitation and DONE
6. Scott Wright: Housing
7. David Uebersax: Public Works, DWP
8. David Hunter: Department of Cannabis Regulation, White Paper (Recommendation that "White Paper" be added to the standing rules as a committee)
9. Myrra Bolla: Cannabis
10. Miran Kalaydjian: Education
11. Jennifer Goodie: Outreach and Finance (and officially all of them)

X. Committees. Which ones do you want to be on?

Those volunteering will be sent direct communication about participation.

- A. Outreach: Chair, Samantha McBride (This will include the monthly Budget Advocate update.)
- B. Finance: Chair, Brian Allen
- C. Budget Day 2023 – Chair to be determined
- D. Bylaws: Co-Chairs, Glenn Bailey and Garry Fordyce
- E. Department committees: Kay Hartman is added to the White Paper Committee; David Hunter will be Chair of the Editing Committee and would like a Co-Chair.
- F. Education and Training: Barbara Ringuette

XI. Reminder that Budget Advocates meetings are generally the 1st Monday at 7:00 p.m. and 3rd Saturday at 9:30 a.m.: Please add these meetings to the calendar as a recurring event. The Zoom link is the same each month and will be announced otherwise when it changes. The next meeting has been rescheduled for August 29th at 7p.m.

XII. Adjournment: Jennifer Goodie adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. Some members stayed for additional unstructured conversation.

- A. Next meeting August 29, 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of Budget Advocate meeting #4 (August 20)

ELSPETH WEINGARTEN

August 27, 2022