

# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

**Zoom Meeting  
July 17, 2021, 9:30 a.m.  
Meeting #2 Minutes  
Budget Advocates Retreat**



Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
-----	-----	1	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Lanira Murphy	Absent	1	Ronee Reece	Present	7
-----	-----	1	David Hunter	Present	7
Brian Allen	Present	2	Jamie Tijerina	Present 10:55	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	2	Liz Amsden	Present	8
Garry Fordyce	Present	2	-----	-----	8
Carol Newman	Present	3	Elias Garcia	Present	9
Lee Blumenfeld	Present	3	Elice Hennessee	Present	9
-----	-----	3	Leslie Gamero	Present 10:19	9
-----	-----	4	Jennifer Goodie	Present	10
Howard Katchen	Present	4	Edmond Warren	Absent	10
Brandon Pender	Present	4	Hugo Rodriguez	Present	10
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Jay Handal	Absent	11
-----	-----	5	Kay Hartman	Present	11
Daniel Perez	Excused	5	Jon Liberman	Present	11
Ernesto Castro	Absent	6	Danielle Sandoval	Present	12
Naira Harootunian	Absent	6	Sheryl Akerblom	Present 9:43	12
Margarita Lopez	Present	6	Gina Martinez	Absent	12

A. Welcome and Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jennifer Goodie at 9:35am, with a full quorum reached at that time.

B. Roll Call: See above for Roll Call.

Budget Reps present were: Emilie Hill (Sun Valley NC), Adriana de la Cruz (Mar Vista del Rey NC) Connie Calderon (North Hollywood NE NC) and John DiGregorio (Panorama City NC).

Also present were guests: Linda Gravani (Lake Balboa NC) Sarah Ramsawack (North Hollywood Northeast NC), Genny R. Alberts (Pico Union NC), Mr. Coleman (North Hollywood NE NC), Philip P., Wendy Diaz-Antonio, Daniel Schoorl and Wendell Greer, Jr., Ed.D

C. Public Comment: None.

## D. Retreat

### a. Budget Advocates 2021-22 Goals

- i. Next 3 months:
  - Holding a successful Budget Day
- ii. Entire Year:
  - Getting access to Budget Advocates' financial accounts
  - Increasing outreach
  - Creating a robust training program for Budget Advocates and Budget Reps
  - Finding a way to a working relationship with DONE
  - Finding a way to solicit funds from Neighborhood Councils and to be treated equitably and equally by DONE, as other alliance-type organizations are treated.
  - Working to get closer to the goal of 100% engagement by Neighborhood Councils in all regions throughout the entire city.
  - Publishing the White Paper, which means not only using people from inside the group, but also drawing in people from outside, who have special knowledge.
  - Following Jackie Goldberg's suggestion of having perhaps one major recommendation in the White Paper.
  - Making sure all Budget Advocates are participating in projects and committee work, aside from attending meetings.
  - Finding ways to engage the Budget Reps more
  - Revisiting specific training for Budget Reps
  - Ensuring that Budget Advocates' recommendations are reflective of the Neighborhood Councils they represent, making sure that all Neighborhood Councils are represented and that they're represented comprehensively.
  - Discussing collaborative engagement with Budget Tribunes and a response to Josh's e-mail.
  - Creating a monthly newsletter that advocates can use to communicate to their Neighborhood Councils.

### b. Responsibilities & obligations

- i. Attendance:

Budget Advocates' first responsibility is attendance. The Executive Committee can recommend members for removal upon missing three meetings in a row, or six meetings total.
- ii. Openings in regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8:

The opening in Region 7 is now filled. Openings remain in Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 8. Others may open up soon. Members and guests should invite to

meetings anyone who might be interested in, or good at, being a Budget Advocate.

iii. Committee participation:

All Budget Advocates are obligated to participate in Standing, Departmental and Special Topic committees.

iv. NC Visits

1. Best practices when visiting NCs (will be covered in-depth in training, but is mentioned here so everyone knows it will be covered):

Each Budget Advocate is responsible for visiting their Neighborhood Council and for giving them a monthly report. Advocates must communicate with the Council ahead of time regarding availability – whether they can attend early or late in meeting. E-mail the Council ahead of time, follow up afterwards and send them the monthly report directly, if possible. Record having visited in the tracking sheet. Listen, and be able to speak to, the specific concerns and issues for each Neighborhood Council.

2. Obtaining up to date contact information for your region

3. NC Assignments:

Elice will be providing a list of new Neighborhood Council Assignments.

v. Tools to manage workflow:

Discussion on whether to use purchased software to track committee work. Google Docs will be used as an interim solution.

c. Call to join standing committees

i. Outreach:

In preparation for Budget Day, Outreach needs help with writing, press Releases, and in all areas of social media, as well as help from anyone with artistic talents, in making flyers. Budget Reps and stakeholders are allowed to join any committee and should e-mail Jennifer or Glenn to do so.

ii. Bylaws

iii. Budget Day:

The Budget Day Committee needs more members, including a chair. Speakers were discussed for a panel discussion and for individual presentations. The event will occur at 9:30am on August 21, lasting

three hours, maximum. This will include regional breakout sessions starting at 11:30am, with Budget Advocate presenting before that time. Commissioners, department heads and Neighborhood Council board members are invited to listen. Jennifer will distribute graphic flyers to send to Budget Reps.

Jennifer moved to switch Budget Day to a Virtual event, due to new information coming to light recently, such as the new mask mandate and not being able to book City Hall. Kay seconded. MOTION PASSED, with 20 for and no abstentions.

Kay moved: to have a panel discussion at Budget Day, to continue pursuing the list of speakers she read, that the event start at 9:30 am, and that the whole thing, including breakout sessions, lasts 3 hours; that the discussion includes breakout sessions and that the breakout sessions start at 11:30am. Jon seconded.

Danielle requested that the “panel discussion” part of the motion be removed for separate discussion.

Kay agreed and removed the “panel discussion” part of the motion, to be discussed separately. Everything else in the motion remained. MOTION PASSED, with 19 for and 1 abstention.

Kay moved that Budget Advocates have a have a hybrid approach to Budget Day and include a panel discussion. Jennifer seconded.

MOTION PASSED, with 14 yes, 3 opposed and 2 abstentions.

All Budget Advocates should send Kay (Interim chair of the Budget Day committee) a list of questions to be considered at the next committee meeting.

d. DONE update:

DONE has reached out to Budget Advocates for mediation regarding access to BA funds and to understand the way that Neighborhood Councils contribute to the organization. Budget Advocates are trying to re-enter the discussion in a spirit of collaboration and compromise to resolve the issue and will be asking to have a formal discussion with DONE.

Many Neighborhood Councils that have said they will pursue getting their money back, if it's not used for the purpose for which they issued it. Friends of West L.A. are already the Fiscal Sponsor for the Budget Advocates' 501(c)3. Funds have to be allocated for a specific event. Charters and codes exist, saying that the accounts belong to the Budget Advocates.

e. Alternatives to City Watch:

Jennifer moved that Budget Advocates cancel the contract with CityWatch. Jon seconded.

MOTION PASSED, with 17 for, 1 opposed and 3 abstentions.

Glenn and Jennifer will cancel the contract in writing today or tomorrow, or with 30-day notice, if necessary.

Discussion on the possibility of getting a Medium.com account with free, and individually-published, articles. A podcast committee will be set up under the Outreach Committee, with a vote to move forward, once more ideas are in place.

f. 2020-21 Wrap Up:

i. Financial wrap up:

Many bills were paid the day of, or after, the Executive Committee elections, including Barbier and Mailroom. Lanira will put together the end-of-the year Financial Report and distribute it to everyone for review.

ii. What did we do right?

Expect to receive an anonymous Survey Monkey survey on what Budget Advocates did right and what needs improvement, regarding last, and previous, years.

Normal contributions were not received this year from Neighborhood Councils, but Budget Advocates also did not have normal expenses, which usually stem from Budget Day.

iii. What do we need to improve?

g. White Paper and Reports

- i. What model? Department reports, topics, cross-department, etc.  
Discussion postponed to next meeting.

E. BREAK (11:40am-12:00pm)

F. Training (items with \* will have handouts) (12:00-2:15pm)

a. Introductions by the 12 Regions (12:00-12:30pm -- 30 minutes)

- i. About you, what interests you, what are you good at?

b. The Budget Cycle\* (12:30-12:40pm -- 10 minutes)

- i. an intro on developing the City Budget – Jack Humphreville
  - c. Brief History of the Budget Advocates -- Jack Humphreville
  - d. What you can do as a Budget Advocate or Budget Representative\*
    - i. Learn about City Departments
    - ii. Participate actively on committees (Departmental, Topic, and Event/Activity based)
    - iii. Support the work of the Budget Advocates – outreach, media, website, Regional Town Halls, editing the White Paper
  - e. City of Los Angeles Organization Chart\*
  - f. City Departments\*
    - i. Teams/Committees to meet with the Departments
    - ii. Setting Up Meetings with City Departments
  - g. Links\*
    - i. BudgetAdvocates.org
    - ii. City websites
    - iii. An Intro to Budget Materials on the CAO’s website -- Jack Humphreville
  - h. Departmental Resources List\*
  - i. Sample Report\*
  - j. Speaking at NC Meetings -- Brandon Pender
  - k. Further Trainings
    - i. Preparing for the Departmental Meeting
    - ii. Conducting the Meeting
    - iii. Preparing the Departmental Report
    - iv. All about the City Budget with Jacob Wexler
    - v. Budget Representative Training
    - vi. Suggestions for additional trainings

G. Adjournment (2:15pm)

Next regular meeting Monday, August 2, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Minutes of Budget Advocate meeting #1 (July 17)

ELSPETH WEINGARTEN  
July 24, 2021