



Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

Zoom Meeting

February 5, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Meeting #12 Minutes

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	7
Lionel Mares	Present	1	Connie Acosta	Present at 8:26 p.m.	7
Brian Allen	Present	2	Lynda Valencia	Present	8
Garry Fordyce	Excused	2	-----	-----	8
Scott Wright	Absent	2	-----	-----	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	3	Elias Garcia	Present	9
David Uebersax	Absent	3	-----	-----	9
Jamie York	Excused	3	-----	-----	9
Howard Katchen	Present	4	Jennifer Goodie	Absent	10
Brandon Pender	Present	4	Skei Saulnier	Absent	10
-----	-----	4	-----	-----	10
Jack Humphreville	Excused	5	Jay Handal	Absent	11
-----	-----	5	Kay Hartman	Present	11
-----	-----	5	Adriana de la Cruz	Absent	11
Ernesto Castro	Present	6	Sheryl Akerblom	Present	12
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- I. Welcome and Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Kay Hartman at 7:37 p.m., with a full quorum in attendance.
- II. Roll Call – See above.
 - A. Also in attendance were: Liz Amsden (Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council), Fatima Valdez (CANN DU Neighborhood Council), Linda Erdman (North Hills West Neighborhood Council), Dave Brown (North Hills West Neighborhood Council), Robert Rouge (Arleta Neighborhood Council), Bella Naomi (Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council), Kel Kline (Student, Occidental College); and Budget Representatives Miran Kalaydjian (Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council / President, Winnetka Neighborhood Council) and Adriana Gomez (North Hollywood West).
- III. MOTION to approve minutes from meeting #10 from December 16, 2023, meeting #11 from January 20, 2024 – No minutes ready to approve
- IV. Public Comment on non-agenda items within subject matter jurisdiction
 - A. Kel Kline is a student at Occidental College seeks to interview residents who have been part of the participatory budgeting process for his thesis on this and the L.A. REPAIR program.

V. Announcements

A. Announcements from DONE (John Darnell)

1. John Darnell shared a report saying that Budget Day planning has gotten off to a great start and that he has met a couple times with the planning committee.
2. John confirmed that he has secured the reservation of City Hall for June 15, including City Council Chambers, the rotunda, the forecourt and tenth-floor meeting rooms.
3. The department is completing paperwork to finalize arrangements with the Fire and Police departments.
4. A budget should be available soon, as well as additional information. New Channel 13 will be in attendance at the event.

VI. New Business

A. CAO Letter on Fiscal Concerns and Prioritization of Critical Hiring - CF23-0600-S115 and Controller Response to CAO Letter

1. Jack shared a report saying that the City has again found itself in economic difficulty and that the CAO recommended closing most unfilled personnel vacancies due to lack of money for hiring.
2. The Controller responded, inviting the Mayor's office, or anyone else, to fix everything the City has gotten wrong financially.
3. The item was approved by City Council a couple weeks ago.
4. The departments needing vacancies filled most urgently are Sanitation, Personnel, and Emergency Management. These also have the largest number of vacancies.

B. Traci Park Budget Survey

1. Councilwoman Park has put out a budget survey, available at the link above.
2. Anyone is welcome to take it, although it is primarily aimed at CD11.
3. Budget Advocates are providing a similar survey at Budget Day breakout sessions.
4. The Executive Committee discussed the possibility of distributing something wider-reaching, but this will require further discussion regarding outreach efforts, if members are interested.

VII. Old Business

A. Vacancies (Cindy Cleghorn) - Seeking Budget Advocates for the following regions – One each in regions 4, 10 and 12, and two each in regions 5, 6, 8, and 9. Election(s) in progress – update

B. Business Cards update

1. Howard received his printed business cards.
2. Cindy will get cards to Lionel, David, Garry and Brandon, upon receiving their mailing address.

C. CF11-1020-S3 (Budget Advocacy vs. Advocates) and NC Contributions – No new information

1. Latest DONE proposal

“One solution is to add another category to state "**Neighborhood Council Budget Day in the amount of:**

“We can also include a statement in the form that explicitly conveys, 'By checking 'Neighborhood Council Budget Day,' you will be contributing to cover expenses associated with Budget Day, additional Budget workshops, and essential administrative needs.”

D. Update on the opening of new Council File 24-0600 for FY 2024-2025 Budget

1. The Council File is not yet open. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, Len Shaffer is still pursuing Councilmember Blumenfield to open the file earlier than usual.

E. Meeting with Mayor Bass

1. Kay has received no response since putting in the initial request and recommends against pursuing it until the White Paper has been distributed.

F. Town Hall on the DONE Budget Proposal for FY 2024-2025

1. Need DONE to settle on a date

a) A vote was held at the last meeting to approve moving forward with planning the event. DONE may choose to set a date, or not.

G. MOTION to hold a Town Hall on the Mayor's FY 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

1. Possible dates include April 20 and April 27

a) Kay has contacted many potential speakers, including Matt Hall, Bernyce Hollins, Ben Ceja and Jacob Wexler, with no responses as yet.

- H. MOTION to hold a Town Hall or partner with another NC organization on a Town Hall on the subject of the Controller's audit of the LAPD's Air Support Division (helicopters) (CF 23-1422) – preferred month is March
1. The Controller has agreed to the event.
 2. LAPD and the Mayor's safety person should be included.
 3. The Town Hall is intended to provide a forum for all viewpoints to be expressed.
 4. Anyone willing to arrange the event should contact Kay.
- I. Department Meetings
1. 2024-2025 Department Budget Requests
 2. We need to get the white paper out in February.
 3. White Paper theme is "Who is Doing the Work?".

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee (Kay Hartmen/Glenn BaileyJ)
1. The committee met and discussed everything on this meeting's agenda, as well as the possibility of changing the date and time of the committee meetings. More information will become available.
- B. Finance Committee (Brian Allen)
1. Brian has received no bills, or information regarding spending.
 2. He will prepare a report, specifying a caveat that it does not include outstanding invoices or DONE financial records.
- C. Outreach Committee (Jennifer Goodie)
1. Jennifer created a save-the-date graphic for Budget Day and is creating reels for social media.
- D. Bylaws Committee (Cindy Cleghorn) – No new information
- E. Training and Education Committee (Kevin Davis) – No report
- F. Ad Hoc Editing Committee
1. Editing will begin once enough reports have been received.
 2. Liz Amsden will consider editing reports for departments she has worked on in the past.
- G. Ad Hoc Budget Day Planning Committee with John Darnell - next meeting 2/11/2024 at 10am

IX. Informational Items

- A. Controller Report Relative to Recommendations to more effectively Prepare the City of Los Angeles for Emergencies - CF 22-1258
- B. Controller's Revenue Forecast
- C. L.A. REPAIR Cohort 1 Program design and voting results. - CF 21-1187
- D. Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes
- E. Mayor's 2023-2024 Budget Summary
- F. First Financial Status Report for Fiscal Year 2023-24 (127 pages) – CF 23-0600-S110
- G. Mayor's Executive Directive #5 "Improving Customer Service" (MyLA311) issued October 30, 2023
- H. Controller Preliminary Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 – CF 23-0600-S108
- I. Mayor's 2024-2025 Budget Letter
- J. CAO's Second Financial Status Report (FSR) (86 pages) - CF 23-0600-S113
- K. Controller's Audit on LAPD Air Support Division (helicopters) – CF 23-1422-Controller's webpage
- L. Human Resources Payroll Project delay - CF 20-0313-S10
- M. CF 23-1187 Updated Citywide Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts Policy
- N. Controller Mejia shared this link: "City of LA Staffing Vacancies by Department"
- O. CAO Letter on Fiscal Concerns and Prioritization of Critical Hiring - CF23-0600-S115
- P. Controller Response to CAO Letter
- Q. Any new Council Files?

X. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- A. BONC: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Budget Advocates: February 17, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
- C. BONC: Monday, February 19, 2024 at 1:00 at City Hall CANCELED (HOLIDAY)
- D. NC Budget Day: Saturday, June 15, 2024

XI. Items for Future Meeting Agendas

A. Email items to LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com

XII. Adjournment – Co-Chair Kay Harman adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Next meeting on February 17, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes of Budget Advocate Meeting #12 (February 5, 2024)

ELSPETH WEINGARTEN

February 17, 2024