

# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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1645 Corinth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Saturday, March 17, 2018 - 10 am



## Meeting #17 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Alé	Absent	9	Brigette Kidd	Present by phone	9
Brian Allen	Present	2	Janet Kim	Absent	7
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Melanie Labrecque	Present by phone	12
Priscilla Anchondo	Present	3	Jon Liberman	Present 10:17	11
Glenn Bailey	Absent	2	Michael Menjivar	Absent	4
Agnes Copeland	Absent	5	William Morrison	Present at 11:24 am	8
Freddy Cupen-Ames	Present by phone	4	Carol Newman	Present	3
Carol Derby-David	Present by phone	10	Robert Newman	Absent	6
Kevin Davis	Absent	1	Christopher Perry	Present	9
John DiGregorio	Present by phone (call dropped 11:40)	1	Rick Ramirez	Absent	1
Adrienne Nicole Edwards	Absent	6	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Valaida Gory	Absent	10	Estuardo Ruano	Absent	7
Diedra Greenaway	Present	2	Danielle Sandoval	Absent	12
Jay Handal	Present	11	Patrick Seamans	Present by phone	5
James Hornik	Present	6	Eleanor Smith	Present	10
Jack Humphreville	Excused	5	Dr. Princess Sykes	Present at 10:30 am	12
Howard Katchen	Excused	4	Lynda Valencia	Present by phone	8
Jacqueline Le Kennedy	Absent	11	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Absent	3

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Co-Chair Jay Handal.
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum of 20 board members was present (see list above). Budget Representative Garry Fordyce from North Hills West was present and John Darnell, DONE's Neighborhood Council Advocate, was present by phone.
3. **Public Comment** – John Darnell reported that DONE is having in-person ethics training on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, in Eagle Rock, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, and reminded everyone the deadline to submit changes or amendments to bylaws is April 15<sup>th</sup>.
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #15 (February 17<sup>th</sup>) and Meeting #16 (March 5<sup>th</sup>)** – Motion by **Brian Allen** to approve the February 17<sup>th</sup> minutes as is and the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as corrected to reflect Carol Derby-David was present by phone and Christopher Perry's and Eleanor Smith's absences as excused, seconded by **Diedra Greenaway**, and passed with 16 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention, and 3 not yet present.
5. **Motion to approve reimbursement of Budget Advocate Board member** The Budget Advocates were advised that the Treasurer had advised the Co-Chairs after-the-fact that the City Clerk's office has a policy of not reimbursing any board member more than \$1,000 in a fiscal year. This will need to be addressed by the Treasurer and the City Clerk's office.  
Motion by **John DiGregorio** to reimburse Budget Advocate Board member Jay Handal, for a total of \$1,270.73 paid to Staples to print and bind the 2018 White Paper: \$328.83 for 25 copies for the Mayor and City Councilmembers, and \$941.90 for 100 additional copies for further distribution, second by **James Hornik**, and passed with 17 ayes (Allen, Amsden,

Anchondo, Cupen-Ames, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Greenaway, Handal, Hornik, Kidd, Labrecque, Liberman, C. Newman, Perry, Ringuette, Smith, and Valencia), 0 noes, 1 abstention (Seamans), and 2 not yet present (Morrison and Sykes).

6. **Bylaws Committee report** – The Committee will be meeting to address further changes in the next couple of weeks.
7. **Report back on meeting with the Mayor**
  - a. The Mayor agreed to meet with the Budget Advocates during the year to get further input on the budget. The first meeting will be prior to his Budget Policy letter to the departments so that the Budget Advocates can have input. Departments will be asked to respond to the Budget Advocates' requests to meet on a timely basis.
  - b. Jay is preparing a list of departments that had not responded to requests to meet this past year for John Chavez.
  - c. Brian Allen will continue to pursue the possibility of having one or more Budget Advocates embedded with the Mayor's Budget Team.
8. **Confirm White Paper and White Paper release has been delivered** – Hard copies were delivered to Councilmembers after the meeting with the Mayor. John DiGregorio is finalizing a release to go with a digital copy to Councilmembers' Chiefs of Staff and budget staff as well as their Outreach person requesting the link to the White Paper on the Budget Advocates' website be put up the Council District website and go out with their weekly newsletter. Jay will send a digital copy with the release to Jack's press contact list and all Neighborhood Council board members. Every Budget Advocates will deliver a printed copy to each of their Neighborhood Councils and request the link be put on each Neighborhood Council website and included in the next newsletter to their stakeholders.
9. **Motion to draft and send revised letter to the Mayor addressing Departments who did not respond to the Budget Advocates' requests to meet last fall/winter** – Withdrawn.
10. **Formation of a Committee to improve on White Paper process** – A decision was made to expand the purview to how to improve on the Budget Advocate process overall. The committee will consist of John DiGregorio, Liz Amsden, Barbara Ringuette, and Carol Newman. Suggestions included drafting a standard operating procedures manual, providing for a transition team after Budget Advocate elections (2019 and beyond), having DONE provide a module on Budget Advocates in their board trainings as well as adding a project manager for the White Paper and shifting its department focus to an issue-based one. Budget Advocates should come up with issues that cut across all (or most) Departments to discuss at our next meeting.
11. **Discussion on Budget Advocates response to the Mayor's State-of-the-City speech** – Discussion about holding a press conference immediately following the Mayor's speech. We will ask for an advance copy but are unlikely to obtain one. Budget Advocates are requested to formulate bullet points of responses to issues that the Mayor may bring up for discussion at the next meeting. A committee will be struck to write outlines from these and a team, drawn from Budget Advocates who will be able to attend the speech, will take notes and interpolate the Mayor's points and our responses into sound bites for our designated spokespeople to give at the press conference.
12. **Making the Revenue Enhancements a presentation to the Budget & Finance Committee in April** – A working group was set up consisting of the following Budget Advocates to share ideas: John DiGregorio, Jack Humphreville, Jay Handal, Liz Amsden, Brian Allen, Freddy Cupen-Ames, Barbara Ringuette, and Brigitte Kidd.
13. **Formation of committee to prepare for presentations to the Budget and Finance Committee in April/May** – Dates for the Budget and Finance Committee hearings have not yet been set. The chairs of the various Department committees should submit comments at the

relevant Department hearings. Those unable to attend should provide a written statement. It is preferable for another Budget Advocate to read this into the record rather than submit as a written statement. There is a two-minute maximum so committees that had a lot of recommendations should consider having several people cover different aspects.

14. **Update on Budget Advocate Survey** – Only 636 responses have been received to date. We need another push to get that number up to 2,000 or more. Budget Advocates should remind each of the Neighborhood Councils they represent including ensuring the link is on each website and goes out with their stakeholder newsletters. Everyone should post on their local NextDoor and similar sites. Joanne Yvanek-Garb contacted all Councilmember offices with the survey link.
15. **Review of Budget Advocate absences** – Notices were sent to the four Budget Advocates whose unexcused absences exceeded 6 in aggregate or 4 total if they wished to continue. Three affirmed they did but there was no response from the 4<sup>th</sup>.  
**Motion** by **Jay Handal** to remove Agnes Copeland for absences, seconded by **Brian Allen**, and passed with 16 ayes, 0 noes, 2 abstentions, and 1 dropped from call.  
**Motion** by **Jon Liberman** to request DONE instruct each Neighborhood Council to add the Budget Advocates' report as a line item to every agenda at the beginning of their meeting or with the elected officials, seconded by **William Morrison**, and passed with 16 ayes, 0 noes, 2 abstentions, and 1 dropped from call.
16. **Discuss developing a Budget 101 'lite' for board members/stakeholders** – Discussion on the need to develop interest in Budget Advocates and Budget Day before Neighborhood Councils select Budget Representatives. Need to develop a one-page 'Cliff Notes' hard-copy version based on ideas verbalized by Jay. Barbara Ringuette to write up these ideas and send to Jay for confirmation. Jon Liberman and Brian Allen to coordinate and ensure distribution by late April or early May. Discussion of the possibility of developing a long form version postponed until a later meeting.
17. **Update on CityWatch articles** – Committee chairs are invited to convert their reports into articles for CityWatch. Liz will request John DiGregorio (lost from call) to circulate a format for the articles.
18. **New Business** – Brian Allen raised the issue of how subdivisions of Neighborhood Councils is adding to the City budget – to address this issue could require an amendment to the City Charter. Patrick Seamans raised some issues and was requested to submit these to Liz be added to next meeting's agenda.
19. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm in the DONE offices.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom  
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates