



Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

Zoom Meeting

November 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting #7 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Kevin Davis	Present at 7:32 p.m.	1	Barbara Ringuette	Present until 8:30 p.m.	7
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	1	David Hunter	Present	7
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Brian Allen	Present	2	Lynda Valencia	Present	8
Garry Fordyce	Present	2	-----	-----	8
Scott Wright	Present	2	-----	-----	8
Glenn Bailey	Present	3	Elias Garcia	Absent	9
David Uebersax	Absent	3	-----	-----	9
Jamie York	Present	3	-----	-----	9
Howard Katchen	Present	4	Jennifer Goodie	Present	10
Brandon Pender	Present at 8:24 p.m.	4	Skei Saulnier	Present	10
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Jack Humphreville	Excused	5	Jay Handal	Absent	11
-----	-----	5	Kay Hartman	Present	11
-----	-----	5	Adriana de la Cruz	Present at 8:07 p.m.	11
Ernesto Castro	Absent	6	Sheryl Akerblom	Present until 8:30 p.m.	12
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- I. Welcome and Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Kay Hartman at 7:11 p.m., with a full quorum in attendance.
- II. Roll Call – See above
 - A. Also in attendance was Jens Midthun (Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council) and Budget Representatives Lena Ayvasian (Canoga Park Neighborhood Council), Lionel Mares (Sun Valley Neighborhood Council) and Miran Kalaydjian (Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council / President, Winnetka Neighborhood Council), Teresa Maysonet (United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council), Connie Martinez (Treasurer, Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council) and Esteven Barr (Canoga Park Neighborhood Council).
- III. MOTION to approve minutes from meeting #5 October 2, 2023 and #6 from October 21, 2023 – Minutes not yet available for approval.
- IV. Public Comment on non-agenda items within subject matter jurisdiction – None
- V. Announcements
 - A. Announcements from DONE – John Darnell – Not present

VI. New Business

A. MOTION to approve a 2023-2024 budget for the Budget Advocates

- i. Kay presented the budget, which was previously approved by the Finance Committee.
- ii. The budget is subject to modifications and revisions throughout the year. Kay and Glenn will try to secure a meeting with Armando to discuss the budget, while City departments are still working on their budget requests.

MOTION by Brian Allen to approve the draft budget, second by Barbara Ringuette and passed with 13 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstention.

B. Letter to the Mayor requesting money for Budget Day – Jennifer Goodie

- i. Jennifer is writing a letter to the Mayor to request the partial cost of Budget Day on behalf of the Budget Advocates. Departmental budget requests are due by November 16 and the request is intended to be considered within the category of departmental budget planning.

C. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE MOTION Should the Budget Advocates Monthly Report to the NCs be published on City Watch?

- i. Monthly reports are available through the Budget Advocates website and are emailed to all current Neighborhood Council board members.

MOTION by Howard Katchen to approve publishing the monthly report in CityWatch, as long as it could be done gratis, second by Kay Hartman.

MOTION by Barbara Ringuette to amend the motion to delay its consideration until after budget advocacy issues could be resolved, second by Brian Allen, and passed with 7 yes, 4 noes, and 3 abstentions.

MOTION by Kay Hartman to amend the motion passed with Barbara's amendment to specify that Budget Advocates publish the monthly report in CityWatch only if it costs the group no money and if the byline is the "Budget Advocates", second by Jamie York and passed with 13 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstention.

D. Mayor's [Executive Directive #5 "Improving Customer Service"](#) (MyLA311) issued October 30, 2023.

- i. The document was issued on October 30. Members are asked to read the whole document before discussing it as a board.

VII. Old Business

A. Vacancies (Cindy Cleghorn) - Seeking Budget Advocates for the following regions – One each in regions 1, 4, 7, 10 and 12, and two each in regions 5, 6, 8, and 9. Election(s) in progress – update.

- i. Cindy distributed an election for Region 1, which concludes on Wednesday. Upon speaking with Barbara, she will distribute an election for Region 7, to conclude on November 15. Cindy will be following up on Region 6, to begin the next election process there.

B. DISCUSSION on Controller Mejia's Budget Educational Session: How The Budget Process REALLY Works! October 26, 2023 – [link to recording](#) on YouTube.

- i. Glenn Bailey expressed appreciation to Budget Advocates who attended and who participated in the chat.
- ii. Topics for more discussion among the Budget Advocates include:
 1. The Controller's proposal of a two-year budget cycle;
 2. suggestion that the Budget Advocates might want to engage in the matter with him;
 3. the Budget Advocates' efforts to shape the budget through departments, before budget requests are submitted.

C. Town Hall with Controller Kenneth Mejia

- i. The Outreach Committee is arranging the event, which will be structured as a 30-minute presentation, followed by a question and answer period. The event will be agendaized for discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting, so as to not duplicate the Controller's October 26 event.

D. Visiting NCs to make Budget Advocates Reports

- i. Budget Advocates are reminded to visit their Neighborhood Councils for the purpose of providing reports and hearing constituent concerns. Each Council should be visited at least once a quarter, ideally every other month. Check the Council's agenda to see if a hybrid meeting option is available, for convenience in attending.
- ii. Please inform Co-Chairs: a) If a Council is not including Budget Advocates announcements on its agenda, even under the "Generic Elected Officials" section; b) If a Council has listed Budget Advocates announcements only under the "Public Comment" section; c) If a Council is not receiving monthly reports; d) Which members are designated to cover which Neighborhood Councils. If the responsibility is fluid between regional representatives, please specify so. The goal is to enable constituents to be provided with a point of contact, as needed.

E. Business Cards update – Item postponed till next meeting

F. CF 11-1020-S3 (Budget Advocacy vs. Advocates) and NC Contributions

- i. Kay and Glenn are still trying to secure a meeting with Vanessa Serrano, as the Interim General Manager, and will try again at tomorrow's BONC meeting.
- ii. SB 411 – The bill specifies that it requires approval by two-thirds of those seated on any Neighborhood Council board, instead of two-thirds of those voting.

G. Restoring annual Neighborhood Council budget allocation - CIS template wording

- i. Jennifer Goodie reviewed her draft of the letter and received adjustments from members. Kay Hartman and Glenn Bailey will guide the letter through its next steps. The document will be positioned as a template letter for Neighborhood Councils to use as needed in filing CISs on upcoming CF 24-0600.

MOTION Kay Hartman moved to finalize on this wording, second by Barbara Ringuette, and passed with 13 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstention.

H. Department Meetings

- i. David Hunter reviewed the list and entered updates regarding scheduled committee meetings with departments. Members are asked to schedule their meetings prior to November 17. David Hunter will discuss with Kay Hartman the possibility of sending a greeting to each working group.

I. Who do you know who is a Budget Rep who is not in this list?

- i. Kay Hartman reviewed the list of Budget Representatives. Members are asked to update the list, or contact Co-Chairs with any current information on Neighborhood Council Budget Representatives, presidents or treasurers.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee – Glenn Bailey and Kay Hartman, Co-chairs

- i. All items have been discussed. The committee meets the second Saturday of each month.

B. Finance Committee – Brian Allen, Chair

- i. Brian presented the financial report. Reimbursements to Jennifer Goodie, Kay Hartman, Barbara Ringuette, and John DiGregorio are outstanding. All the payments to Kristina Smith (The Mailroom) have been issued to DONE and are now processed. It is unknown whether they've been sent out yet, or not. Brian will contact Armando at DONE to schedule a meeting with him, Kay and Glenn about this budget.

C. Outreach Committee – Jennifer Goodie, Chair – No report.

D. Bylaws Committee – Cindy Cleghorn, Chair

- i. Cindy will work on Bylaws after elections are completed. Please review existing Bylaws and submit any notes to Cindy.

E. Training and Education Committee – Kevin Davis, Chair – No report

F. Ad Hoc Editing Committee – Kay Hartman, Chair – No report

G. Ad Hoc Budget Day Committee

- i. The committee selected two possible dates to meet with John Darnell and is waiting to hear back. The committee will meet with John Darnell in November to discuss planning for the in-person event in June.

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 Cohort1 Program design and voting results – \[CF 21-1187\]\(#\)](#)
- D. [Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes](#)
- E. [Mayor's 2023-2024 Budget Summary](#)
- F. **NEW:** [First Financial Status Report](#) for Fiscal Year 2023-24 (127 pages) – [CF 23-0600-S110](#)
- G. Any new Council Files?

X. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- A. BONC: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (Code of Conduct approval)
- B. ~~Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 2:30 p.m. – CANCELLED~~
- C. Budget Advocates: Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
- D. BONC: Monday, November 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
- E. Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 2:30 pm.
- F. HAPPY THANKSGIVING: November 23, 2023
- G. LANCC: Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
- H. Budget Advocates: Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

XI. Items for Future Meeting Agendas

- A. Email items to LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com.

XII. Adjournment – Co-Chair Kay Hartman adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Next meeting on November 18, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes of Budget Advocate Meeting #7 (November 6, 2023)

ELSPETH WEINGARTEN

November 14, 2023