

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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1645 Corinth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Saturday, April 21, 2018 - 10 am



Meeting #19 Minutes

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

1. Call to order. Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jay Handal at 10:10AM
2. Roll Call- 20 Budget Advocates were in attendance when roll was called By Co-Chair Jay Handal.

BA ITEM 2 Roll Call		
Present-20	Excused-2	Absent – 12
Allen, Derby-David, Davis, Greenaway, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kidd, Labrecque, Liberman, C Newman, Perry, Ringuette, Ruano, Sandoval, Seamans, Sykes, Valencia, Yvanek-Garb	Bailey, DiGregorio	Ale, Amsden, Cupen-Ames, Edwards, Gory, Kennedy, Kim, Menjivar, Morrison, R Newman, Ramirez, Smith

10:14 AM Liz Amsden joined the meeting in person.

3. Public Comment on items NOT on the agenda (max: 10 minutes/2 minutes per person).
No public comment.
4. Approval of minutes from Meeting #18 (April 2nd)
Item was postponed.

10:18 AM William Morris joined the meeting by telephone.

5. Treasurer’s report & motion to approve.
 A motion was made to postpone the Treasurer’s report and was affirmed. Howard Katchen came back on the telephone to acknowledge that he was present. According to Howard Katchen, there is currently \$31,000.00 in the Budget Advocates’ account. Howard did not have a current report on all the Neighborhood Councils that have passed motions to fund the Budget Advocates’ activities. Howard will reach out to Leila Campos to request a funding report on those amounts. Jay Handal will send a letter to Petty in the City Clerk’s Office who oversees the Budget Advocates’ funding to find out why there are difficulties in getting bills paid.

6. Motion to amend amount of reimbursement due to Budget Advocate Boardmember, Jay Handal, (originally approved \$941.90 at Board meeting March 17, 2018, agenda item 5) to include additional reimbursement for sales tax of \$95.93; a total amended reimbursement amount of \$1,037.83.

BA ITEM 6 Reimburse Jay Handal \$1,037.83 Moved: L Amsden Second: Liberman		
Yes – 21	No	Abstain-1
Allen, Amsden, Derby-David, Davis, Greenaway, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kidd, Labrecque, Liberman, Morris, C Newman, Perry, Ringuette, Ruano, Sandoval, Seamans, Sykes, Valencia, Yvanek-Garb	NONE	Handal

7. Review of the revised Budget Advocates 1-page flyer, discussion on how to disseminate and possible funding motion. The flyer will be sent out to the Neighborhood Council Boardmembers and put in the EmpowerLA newsletter. Barbara will send the flyer to Jay for distribution. In addition to the previously mentioned locations, Jay will submit the flyer to CityWatch for publication and on the website. It was mentioned that a better way to circulate the flyer to the public needs to be addressed.

8. Discussion and possible motion to develop and fund a Budget Advocate event web portal. Jay Handal has been investigating the different options available for a Budget Advocate web platform. Freddy Cupen-Ames has been assigned the task of the web portal. Jay and Liz will develop the specifics of the web portal for Freddy.

9. There has been no update on the election of a replacement Budget Advocate in Region 5. Liz will send out an email requesting a vote. As of this meeting, Region 3 has a vacancy due to the resignation of Priscilla Anchondo.

10. Nomination of Secretary to replace Lynda Valencia until the Budget Day elections. Carol Newman will contact Rick Ramirez to see if he is interested in the position.

11. Motion to draft a letter to the Mayor in complaint of the Budget Advocates exclusion from the Mayor’s State-of-the-City speech, and requesting formalization of monthly meetings with the Mayor’s budget staff in addition to a minimum of two meetings a year with the Mayor. The letter was amended to include the request that the Mayor’s Office send out the Budget Advocate White Paper to the Mayor’s email list.

BA ITEM 11 motion to send letter to the Mayor with amendments. Move: Handal Second: Allen		
Yes – 21	No	Abstain-1
Allen, Amsden, Derby-David, Davis, Greenaway, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kidd, Labrecque, Liberman, Morris, C Newman, Perry, Ringuette, Ruano, Sandoval, Seamans, Sykes, Yvanek-Garb	NONE	Valencia

12. Proposal and possible motion to set up a Budget Advocate press conference to address the Mayor's State-of-the-City speech – what points the Budget Advocates support and where the City deserves improvement. Jay Handal has requested a PRA for the invitation list and R.S.V.P list for the State of the City Address. Motion Tabled
13. Update on obtaining the RecycLA contract and supporting documentation, review and evaluation, discussion and possible motion to draft a letter to the City Council on the Budget Advocates' recommendations on how best the City address the ongoing problems. Issues were identified and discussed in regards to the RecycLA contracts. Items identified were the potential for Attorney/Client privilege issues and potential lawsuits by the contractors against the city if the contracts were cancelled. Questions were raised as to what issues fall under the purview of the Budget Advocates and whether the Budget Advocates should be just looking at budget Issues or do the service issues fall under the Budget Advocate purview. Jack Humphreville will contact General Manager Enrique Zaldivar and request he assign someone to walk the Budget Advocates through the process of the trash contracts.
14. Report on the status of the Budget Advocate survey. There have been 728 responses to the survey. Jay Handal also reported that he has received at least 11 emails from Neighborhood Councils who have passed motions in supporting the White Paper. There are also 82 letters of support for the Los Angeles Police Protective League's Report.

11:13 AM Adrienne Edwards joined the meeting by telephone.

15. Report on developing a presentation on the Budget Advocates for DONE to include as a featured component of NC board member trainings. John Darnell had previously been given the task to communicate with the DONE to help implement the process. Brian Allen will now be working on a process for the Department to include Budget Advocates as a featured component on Boardmember training and has spoken with DONE Department Manager Grayce Liu and will continue to follow up.
16. Report on Revenue Enhancements presentation to the Budget and Finance Committee on May 3rd and possible motion to approve. There was a discussion with many issues being brought up. The three main topics that the attendees agreed upon were funding the reserve fund, coalition raises and the pension fund. Jack Humphreville and Liz Amsden will lay out the presentation and choose which issues are the most important ones to address before Budget and Finance.
17. Assignment of Budget Advocates to cover each Department at the Budget and Finance Committee hearings in April/May. During discussion, it was determined that the Budget Advocates that wrote the Department reports should be the ones to address each department. Jay will send out a schedule and find out which days the different Budget Advocates can attend the Department Presentations and the Budget and Finance Committee. Assignments will then be determined.
18. Discussion of Budget Advocate presentation to the Budget and Finance Committee on May 3rd. This is the most important meeting for the budget Advocates and Neighborhood Councils and we need as many Budget Advocates to be there as possible. In addition to the previous topics discussed in item 16, Diedra Greenaway suggested Six Sigma as a way to investigate efficiencies, inefficiencies and waste in the city. Everyone loved the idea and since she may not be able to attend the meetings, Diedra will create a report that can be presented by someone else that will be attending. Jay Handal will contact Councilmember Paul Krekorian's Office to find out how much time the Budget Advocates will have to speak for both the Department Presentations and during Public Comment time. Revenue and finance are issues that need to be addressed in the presentation. In addition, we need to focus on some of the bigger, citywide issues that are not being addressed. Creating revenue enhancements as a talking point will also be very important.

19. Discussion and assignment of responsibilities for Budget Day. No meeting has been held to date. John Darnell will report back to Jay this week in regards to DONE logistics and items that still need to be addressed.
 - a. Budget Advocates need to reach out to all Budget Representatives to have them announce at their meetings and placed on the agendas the need to choose their Budget Representatives before Budget Day. Budget Advocates need to request Neighborhood Council give leftover funds to the Budget Advocates.
 - b. No report on publicizing Budget Day since John DiGregorio was absent.
 - c. Budget Advocates need to start reaching out to the Council Offices to which they were assigned – assignments are in the minutes for Meeting #18.
 - d. Press list update Jack Humphreville will send an updated media email list to Jay Handal.
 - e. Logistics for set up, and on the day Postponed.

20. Status CityWatch articles: Diedra Greenaway has written two articles for CityWatch; one was on the Los Angeles Community College District and the other was the City’s lack of oversight on homeless issues. She sent them to John DiGregorio. Everyone was advised to send articles to Ken Draper and copy Jay. Both Jack Humphreville and Jay Handal are working on articles for CityWatch

21. Hot issues (if there is time)
 - a. How to work with the City on funding comprehensive Emergency plans for the City in the event of earthquakes, floods, terrorist, or disease/biological events. This is a good topic for Budget and Finance. During discussion it was identified that the City does not have a comprehensive emergency plan. One of the major questions asked was how much will it cost the taxpayers of Los Angeles if we are not prepared? The Mayor’s current plan does not have real economic resiliency for our city.
 - b. Discussion on what resilience is and how Budget Advocates can assist with the Mayor’s initiative and expand it to encompass economic resilience. Budget Advocates will prepare a statement to present at the Budget and Finance Committee.
 - c. Calling on the City to develop comprehensive financial plans for the Olympics and World Cup soccer to include infrastructure, homelessness, traffic congestion/public transit and other related concerns. The Homelessness issue needs to be addressed and there needs to be more transparency for the planning and operations of the World Cup and Olympics.

22. New business. – No new business

23. Motion to Adjourn in memory of Barbara Bush was moved by Jay Handal

BA ITEM 23 Adjourn Move: Handal Second: Yvanek-Garb 12:04PM		
Yes – 23	No	Abstain
Allen, Amsden, Derby-David, Davis, Edwards, Greenaway, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kidd, Labrecque, Liberman, Morris, C Newman, Perry, Ringuette, Ruano, Sandoval, Seamans, Sykes, Valencia, Yvanek-Garb	NONE	NONE

There will be a brief meeting of the Executive Committee immediately following this meeting. Attendance in person is preferable.

Our next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, May 7th at 7 pm in the DONE offices at City Hall.