

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates 2015/16 – Meeting #6

Neighborhood Empowerment Office, City Hall

200 North Spring Street, Suite 2005, Los Angeles, CA 90012

November 2, 2015

1. ROLL CALL

Liz Amsden took the roll. Budget Advocates present: Susan Reimers, Joanne Yvanek Garb, Barbara Ringuette, Liz Amsden, Brett Shears, Dr. Seamans, Fanny Ortiz, Jon Lieberman, Harvey Goldberg. On the phone: Margaret Peters, Howard Katchen, Brandon Pender, Juan Salas, Kevin Davis, Scott Bytof, Terry Gomes and Linda Lee.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Ringuette reported receiving an email from a Housing and Community Investment employee who has identified a way that the BAs can assist to energize the housing component. Ms. Ringuette will forward the email to the BAs.

Susan Reimers reminded the BAs that the Alzheimer's walk will take place and asked for support from the BAs.

Quorum established at 7:17pm.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 17 & OCTOBER 5

Approval of the August 17, 2015 Minutes was postponed.

Barbara Ringuette requested the following change to the Updates and Discussions for Committees agenda item: "Ms. Ringuette offered that this department could be included in her current committee that will look at Housing, Planning, etc."

Harvey Goldberg advised that changes he suggested to the LACERs report in the draft October 5 Minutes were not included. Mr. Goldberg will provide the suggested changes to the Secretary for inclusion.

There was discussion about procedures for changes to draft Minutes and posting accurate reports of what occurs at BA meetings.

Barbara Ringuette moved to approve the October 5, 2015 Minutes, as amended; Harvey Goldberg seconded.

Joanne Yvanek Garb abstained.

There being no objection, the motion passed.

4. APPROVAL OF FUNDING REPORT

Howard Katchen reported that an agreement has been reached with DONE on how funds are to be used to pay BA expenses. Expenses will be paid from the DONE side of the ledger before funds are taken from the amount the BAs receive from the Neighborhood Councils. Mr. Katchen stated that he has not yet been told what items cannot be charged to the DONE account, aside from bottled water. No current balance of funds was available. Mr. Katchen discussed his efforts to secure transparency with regard to reporting BA expenditures and available funds. He also advised that expenses to date for Regional Budget Day total \$1427.22 (refreshments and A/V equipment). The amount budgeted for Regional Budget Day was \$2500. Mr. Katchen suggested that the expenses for printing 5,000 survey cards be included in expenses for Regional Budget Day.

Harvey Goldberg stated his concern that a readily accessible report on available BA funds should be available. Jon Lieberman opined that Ron Galperin's office might be able to facilitate a control-panel BA funding report. Mr. Katchen reiterated his suggestion that a control panel should be made available on the website. Glenn Bailey asked if Mr. Katchen has access to checking account statements and requested that monthly statements be provided to the BAs. Liz Amsden asked for a copy of specific items that are excluded from being expensed to DONE.

The Treasurer's Report was tabled.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE CONCERNS:

a. Parking Passes

Linda Lee will send an email to BAs asking if anyone has not yet received a parking pass.

b. Business Cards

Taken out of order. There was discussion about who has not yet received business cards; Linda Lee does not have 2015 business cards. Glenn Bailey reported that the business cards do not have a City Hall address.

c. Reminder on email-naming convention

6. ELECTION OF SECRETARY TO REPLACE ERICK MORALES, ELECTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY IF LINDA LEE IS CONFIRMED SECRETARY

There were no other nominations.

Joanne Yvanek Garb moved to confirm Linda Lee to replace Erick Morales as BA Secretary; seconded by Harvey Goldberg. There being no objection, the motion passed.

Linda Lee confirmed Jon Lieberman's self-nomination as Assistant Secretary. There were no other nominations.

There being no objection, the motion passed.

7. ADDRESS REMOVAL OF BUDGET ADVOCATES BASED ON ATTENDANCE OR OTHER ISSUES AND THEIR REPLACEMENTS OF THESE AND OF BUDGET ADVOCATES WHO HAVE STEPPED DOWN (REGIONS 5, 10 & 11)

There was discussion about appropriate action for BAs whose participation and attendance at BA meetings and activities are in violation of the BA By-laws.

Barbara Ringuette moved to declare the BA seat vacant for Region 9; seconded by Jon Lieberman.

Ms. Ringuette withdrew her motion after it was determined that the appropriate entity to act is the BA Executive Board.

Glenn Bailey, for the record, stated the following: Jack Humphreville is nominated to represent Region 5,

(Taken out of order) Glenn Bailey advised that, for Region 10, Kjiel Carlson has been appointed as replacement BA, and for Region 11, Marcello Robinson has accepted appointment.

8. REPORT BACKS ON REGIONAL BUDGET DAYS

Linda Lee reported on disappointing attendance at the Region 5/6 Regional Budget Day.

Barbara Ringuette complimented the organization, outreach and participation for the Regional Budget Day in Boyle Heights and suggested that the Silverlake area be included with Region 5 and 6 for the 2016 Regional Budget Day.

Liz Amsden reported on suggestions made by Marisol that, to ensure representation from across the community, each BA be required to bring two NC board members to the 2016 Regional Budget Day. Ms. Amsden also suggested that sufficient lead time be added to ensure planning and outreach are more successful.

Glenn Bailey advised that participation in the BA Regional Budget Day in the Valley had improved from that of 2014, and complimented the presentation made by Ron Galperin. Ms. Amsden reiterated her suggestion that more emphasis could be made on bilingual accommodation. Mr. Bailey expressed his disappointment with outreach, especially by the various NC webmasters.

9. SUGGESTIONS/DISCUSSION FOR MORE DIRECTED OUTREACH FOR NEXT YEAR

Jon Lieberman suggested holding the next Regional Budget Day on a different day of the week. Barbara Ringuette suggested that more effort be made to advertise who will be present to represent City government. Dr. Seamans stated that religious reasons affected attendance in Region 5. Harvey Goldberg suggested that a committee be formed; Mr. Goldberg volunteered to chair the committee. Linda Lee and Fanny Martinez offered to join the committee.

10. REPORT BACK ON SERVICE REPORT CARDS (KRYSTEE CLARK)

Postponed.

11. EVALUATE AND POSSIBLE MOTION FOR AN ADDITIONAL PRINTING RUN OF THE SERVICE REPORT CARDS

Terry Gomes joined the meeting via phone.

There was discussion about how many cards were distributed and how many remained undistributed. It was agreed that ordering additional cards is appropriate. Glenn Bailey suggested that a motion be made to approve both the initial printing order and an amount to cover the additional printing of service.

Harvey Goldberg moved to authorize up to \$250 to cover the cost of printing additional service cards; seconded by Jon Lieberman.

There was discussion about how many additional cards can be printed and plans for distributing the cards.

There being no objection, the motion was approved unanimously.

12. STATUS COMMITTEES:

- a. Recommendations to departments

Liz Amsden advised that committee recommendations be submitted within the next week to allow sufficient time to prepare preliminary bullet points and recommendations for submission to Mayor Garcetti. Ms. Amsden

stated that finished reports can be provided in December, however. Harvey Goldberg suggested providing a draft of any recommendation made to the department interviewed

b. Reports

City Administrative Office – Joanne Yvanek Garb advised that a rough draft has been formed of the report for this department and that recommendations are forthcoming.

Aging – Liz Amsden stated that this report has been submitted.

Animal Services - Liz Amsden advised Terry Gomes that this report has not yet been submitted.

City Attorney – No meeting date has been scheduled, per Brandon Pender and Nelson Castillo

Building and Safety – A meeting took place on October 15th.

City Clerk -- A meeting took place on October 15th. Glenn Bailey advised that a report is forthcoming.

Contract Administration and Public Works – Kevin Davis stated that recommendations and a report are forthcoming.

Controller – Joanne Yvanek Garb advised that a planned meeting had to be rescheduled.

Convention Center: Erick Morales is preparing a report and recommendations.

Cultural Affairs – A Meeting Has Been Scheduled.

Disability – A meeting took place earlier on November 2nd. Dr. Patrick Seamans asked why preliminary recommendations have been requested for this week; Liz Amsden reiterated the plan to submit preliminary recommendations to the Mayor's office prior to budget decisions being made.

Economic and Workforce Development – No one was available to report

Emergency Management – Brandon Pender stated that recommendations and a report are forthcoming

Employee Relations/Engineering – Dropped for this year

Ethics – Liz Amsden stated that recommendations and a report are forthcoming

Finance – Terry Gomes stated that a meeting has not yet been scheduled

Fire/Police – Nelson Castillo stated that a meeting has not yet been scheduled; Terry Gomes stated he would assist with scheduling

NOTES ADDED BY LIZ AMSDEN: General Services – Terry and Brett were working on setting up a meeting

Housing – Barbara was working on report

ITA – report was submitted, need recommendations from Brett

Library – Glenn reported Ayana was preparing the notes

DONE – Howard working on

Personnel – waiting on notes and recommendations from Erick

Planning – Barbara working on report

Public Works – a meeting has not yet been scheduled

Board Office of Public Works – Brandon will reschedule a meeting

Sanitation – Report submitted

Street Lighting – a meeting has not yet been scheduled

Street Services – Liz Amsden received notes but no report or recommendations

Web site Scott Bytof will contact Elvina Beck to go over what has to be corrected on the website.

Transportation – a meeting has not yet been scheduled

Unions – a meeting has been scheduled with LAPPL but not for SEIU

Zoo – a meeting has not yet been scheduled

Recreation and Parks – Glenn Bailey stated that Rec and Parks personnel had not shown up for an earlier scheduled meeting and discussed his efforts to reschedule

13. Report Back On Updating Of NCBALA Website

Scott Bytof stated that he will contact Elvina Beck, the NCBALA webmaster, to go over what has to be corrected on the website.

14. Update on Olympics (Status, David Ryu's Request On Traffic, How Costs Will Be Contained, Etc.)

Glenn Bailey suggested that the BAs focus on budget issues, and reported that there are no dollar amounts on the Ryu motion. There was general discussion about the Olympics proposal.

Susan Reimers and Margaret Peters left the meeting.

15. PRESENTATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY

Linda Lee asked if the BAs are interested in opening a dialogue regarding climate change. After discussion, the general consensus is that other forums exist that are more appropriate. Joanne Yvanek Garb noted that one fiscal impact is removal of trees that have died because of the drought. Terry Gomes suggested an executive summary be formalized. This topic can be brought up again once the BA White Paper is formalized.

16. PRESENTATION ON HOMELESSNESS & SETTING UP HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE

Barbara Ringuette advised of plans to meet with the Mayor's office and information that is forthcoming. Joanne Yvanek Garb advised that two new shelters are being opened in the City of Los Angeles. Terry Gomes referred to the Mayor's plan to eliminate homelessness.

17. PRESENTATION ON BUDGET-RELATED COUNCIL FILE IDENTIFICATION, RECOMMENDATIONS & SENDING THROUGH BRS TO NCS FOR CIS SUPPORT (Taken Out Of Order)

Glenn Bailey provided copies of a proposed format for a Community Impact Statement form similar to that used by LANCC and discussed the advantages of being able to research and track CIS submissions. Mr. Bailey proposed that the CIS form and procedure be created for budget related items and that a procedure similar to that used by LANCC be followed (posting on the BA website and linked as is that for LANCC). Mr. Bailey noted that a number of report backs for already filed CISs have been received.

Linda Lee moved to support Liz Amsden's suggestion that this issue be carried forward from meeting to meeting in order to allow additional input from BAs as an on-going agenda item; seconded by Joan Yvanek Garb.

There being no objection, the motion passed.

18. NEW BUSINESS

Glenn Bailey referred to an announcement regarding the new emergency preparedness coalition and requested that Terry Gomes contact Commissioner Schaeffer to ask that the time for this meeting be set so that it does not conflict with the BAs regularly scheduled meeting.

Terry Gomes advised that Joan Jacobs resigned as a BA as of that evening. Liz Amsden asked Linda Lee to initiate a search for a replacement.

Kevin Davis reported that Rec & Parks is competing for a \$100K grant and asked that the BAs weigh in with their support.

19. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

None noted.

20. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm. Liz Amsden stated that the next scheduled meeting will be in West LA on November 21st.