



Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

www.BudgetAdvocates.org

Zoom Meeting

December 16, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting #10 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Kevin Davis	Present	1	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Cindy Cleghorn	Present at 10:35 a.m.	1	David Hunter	Absent	7
Lionel Mares	Present	1	Connie Acosta	Absent	7
Brian Allen	Excused	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	Present	3	-----	-----	9
Jamie York	Excused	3	-----	-----	9
Howard Katchen	Present	4	Jennifer Goodie	Excused	10
Brandon Pender	Absent	4	Skei Saulnier	Absent	10
-----	-----	4	-----	-----	10
Jack Humphreville	Present at 10:00 a.m.	5	Jay Handal	Present 10:29	11
-----	-----	5	Kay Hartman	Present	11
-----	-----	5	Adriana de la Cruz	Present till 10:55	11
Ernesto Castro	Absent	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 9:41 a.m., with 13 members in attendance. A full quorum was reached at 10:00 a.m.
- II. Roll Call – See above.
 - A. Also in attendance were Kathleen Edwards (North Hills West Neighborhood Council) and Budget Representatives: Linda Erdman (North Hills West Neighborhood Council) Theresa Maysonet (United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council), Lena Ayvasian (Canoga Park Neighborhood Council), Esteven Barr (Canoga Park Neighborhood Council), Miran Kalaydjian (Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council / President, Winnetka Neighborhood Council) and Dave Brown (North Hills West Neighborhood Council).
- III. MOTION to approve minutes from meeting #6 from October 21, 2023, #7 from November 6, 2023, #8 from November 18, 2023, #9 from December 6, 2023 – No minutes ready to approve.
- 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 Town Hall on the DONE Budget

1. Co-Chairs offered the opportunity for Vanessa to explain the DONE budget in a Town Hall meeting.
Motion by Adriana de la Cruz to approve a Town Hall meeting to discuss the DONE budget, second by Jack Humphreville, and passed with 14 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstention.

1. Suggested date January 20 after the BA meeting

- i. January 20, 2024, was suggested as a date for the Town Hall meeting, to be held following the Budget Advocates meeting. Based on previous events, the hour-and-a-half format length works best.

B. Letter to the Mayor requesting funding for Budget Day

1. Executive Committee suggests we lobby not only the Mayor but also the members of the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee and someone in the CAO's office
2. Who will write these letters?
 - i. A volunteer is sought to write the first draft of the letter, preferably by January 20, the date of the Town Hall meeting.

C. Outreach to NCs

1. Vanessa Serrano (DONE GM) expressed confusion among Neighborhood Councils regarding who the Budget Advocates are and what the group does.
2. An additional flyer has been proposed to address the Budget Representatives and what they do. Kevin Davis will be helping; additional volunteers are welcome.

D. Controller's Audit on LAPD Air Support Division (helicopters) - CF 23-1422 – Controller's webpage

1. The Controller's webpage published an announcement about their audit regarding the use of helicopters for patrol and ceremonial purposes.
2. Members can expect to encounter questions on the matter upon visiting Neighborhood Councils.
3. The officer discussed the value of helicopter air support and said that officers would not enter private properties to catch criminals.
4. It was confirmed that 99% of criminals identified by helicopters were subsequently caught.
5. The audit has cost almost \$50 million, with work spanning from almost four departments.

E. Human Resources Payroll Project delay – CF 20-0313-S10

1. The Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee voted on a report to postpone until June 2024 an overhaul of the entire City's payroll that was supposed to be completed this month.
2. The matter is being heard by the Information Technology Agency and was heard at the last Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee meeting.
3. The report is an S10, indicating that there are nine supplemental files to the Council File.

VII. Old Business

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

1. Cindy was not in attendance to provide a report at the time this item was discussed. Elections will likely be on hold over the holidays.

B. Business Cards update – Cindy Cleghorn

1. Cindy and Kay have been communicating about mock-ups. Glenn will be looped in on adjustments.

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

- i. During the December 2 meeting with DONE, Vanessa inquired about Budget Advocate outreach. Kay explained the group's hesitation to raise money without knowing where it will go, whether those trying to donate will be rejected, or whether the group will receive the funds they raise. Vanessa therefore agreed to the Budget Advocates having a sub-account for Budget Day.

1. December 2nd DONE Meeting notes

- i. Kay, Glenn and Brian met with Armando, Vanessa and Tom Soong of DONE. Garry and Lionel were also in attendance.
- ii. The Budget Advocates' budget was discussed. It was explained that costs for many things have gone up and that numbers were based on those spent by the Empowerment

Congress of Neighborhoods, then adjusted to match the needs of Budget Day. DONE members were given an opportunity to ask questions and no items were vetoed. They have asked to discuss the budget further at the next meeting.

- iii. Glenn reminded DONE members that Budget Advocates had previously received \$20,000 from the department and that, although the group was expecting \$10,000 this year, the amount would not arrive in time to fund the Budget Day event.
- iv. At Armando's recommendation, Budget Advocates will hold a kickoff meeting scheduled for January, with Karen, Armando, John Darnell and Vanessa attending. Kay asked Blair to make arrangements.
- v. DONE agreed to a follow-up meeting in the new year and assured Kay a response. The December 2 meeting was the most productive with the department in over four years. DONE still needs to respond to the Budget Advocates about the group's budget, how the group will be able to spend money, and how the group will be able to receive the money it has raised. Budget Advocates hope for a resolution to some of these outstanding concerns at the following meeting.

D. Meeting with Mayor Bass

1. Kay sent an email to Jeanne Holm and Bernyce Hollins requesting a meeting with the Mayor. She also notified them that the budget requests they posted online were not accessible – a matter which was then fixed. Bernyce said they would get back to Kay about meeting with the Mayor.

E. Requests for Budget Rep list

1. Members are asked to update the list, or to contact Co-Chairs directly with any current information on Neighborhood Council Budget Representatives, presidents or treasurers.

F. Department Meetings – Kay reviewed the list to confirm the status of meetings.

1. 2024-2025 Department Budget Requests
2. If your meeting is not scheduled, get it scheduled now. If you need help, let Kevin Davis or the co-chairs know
3. Reminder to discuss City-wide issues at these meetings. This is not the time to discuss personal issues or issues specific to your NC

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee – (Kay Hartman/Glenn Bailey)

1. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2024. This date conflicts with the date of the Empowerment Congress Summit, so stay tuned for confirmation.

B. Finance Committee – (Brian Allen) – Not present

C. Outreach Committee – (Jennifer Goodie) – Not present

D. Bylaws Committee – (Cindy Cleghorn)

1. 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) – no new information

F. Ad Hoc Editing Committee – No new information

G. Ad Hoc Budget Day Committee – The next meeting is scheduled for January.

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. Any new Council Files?

1. [CF 23-1187](#) Updated Citywide Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts Policy

- i. Budget Advocates are attempting to have Council File 24-0600, regarding the overall City budget, opened earlier than usual, so Neighborhood Councils can add comments. Commissioner Schaffer is working with Councilmember Blumenfield on the matter. Please communicate any ideas on motions he could introduce that would be helpful to next year's budget.

X. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- A. BONC – Monday, December 18, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
- B. BONC – Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
- C. Budget Advocates – Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
- D. BONC – Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
- E. 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 Hartman adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Next meeting on January 20, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes of Budget Advocate Meeting #10 (December 16, 2023)
ELSPETH WEINGARTEN
December 24, 2023