

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates – Meeting #20

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1645 Corinth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Saturday, May 6, 2017 – 1 pm



Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Excused	9	Keith Kirkwood	Absent	5
Brian Allen	Present	2	Jon Liberman	Present	11
Liz Amsden	Present (13:15)	8	Monica Massey	Absent	12
Julie Burg	Absent	10	Michael Menjivar	Absent	4
Kevin Davis	Absent	1	William Morrison	By phone	8
Adrienne Edwards	Absent	6	Carol Newman	By phone	3
Amy Foell	Absent	7	Christopher Perry	Absent	9
Cindy Wu Freeman	Absent	2	Ava Post	Absent	6
Craig Goldfarb	Excused	12	Rick Ramirez	By phone	1
Valaida Gory	Excused	10	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Jay Handal	Present	11	Marcus Rodriguez	Absent	7
Jeanette Hopp	Absent	4	Danielle Sandoval	Absent	12
James Hornik	Absent	6	Patrick Seamans	Excused	5
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Lynda Valencia	Excused	8
Ann Job	By phone	1	Krisna Velasco	Absent	2
Howard Katchen	Excused	4	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Absent	3
Jacqueline Kennedy	By phone	4	Vacant Seat		3
Brigette Kidd	By phone	9	Vacant Seat		10

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 1:07 pm by Co-Chair Jay Handal.
2. **Roll Call** – There was not a quorum with only 12 present (see list above). Pursuant to the Budget Advocate Bylaws, since there have now been two consecutive Board meetings where a standard quorum is not achieved then if at the next meeting on May 20th there are again less than 14 Budget Advocates present (in person or by phone), then the special quorum rule shall take effect – at least seven Budget Advocates are present from at least seven different Regions – with any vote needing at least seven affirmative votes to pass in addition to the majority or 2/3 majority as required.
Ivan Spiegel (Venice Neighborhood Council & coordinator for the 2017 Congress of Neighborhoods) joined the meeting shortly after 2 pm.
3. **Public Comment** – none.
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #18 (April 3rd) and Meeting #19 (April 15th)**. TABLED due to lack of quorum.
5. **Treasurer’s Report and Motion to Approve** – An updated report had been circulated but approval was TABLED due to lack of quorum. Treasurer Howard Katchen was out of town so his report on issues with DONE was also TABLED.
6. **Report on funding of Budget Advocates by Neighborhood Councils** – TABLED until next meeting.
7. **Response from the CAO on the White Paper** – A committee was struck to respond to the CAO’s office’s responses to the White Paper – Jack Humphreville, Jon Liberman, Barbara Ringuette, Brian Allen and Jacqueline Le Kennedy. ALL Budget Advocates are requested to look at the CAO’s comments on the departments that they met with and advise the committee of their comments and concerns.

8. **Report on the Budget Advocate presentation to the Budget and Finance Committee on the FY 2017-18 City budget.** The Budget and Finance Committee responded with great interest to the presentation on revenue suggestions. Unfortunately, they paid less attention to subsequent sections of the Budget Advocate presentation. In future, Budget Advocates should consider putting those elements they anticipate will generate the most interest at the end. Jack will draft a memo to Committee Chair Paul Krekorian strongly recommending that Departments invite Budget Advocates to get involved in discussing their budgets in the development stage. Brian will vet. Jack and Brian will work together on a CityWatch article on why the City needs a City Manager and request that the City put it to the people.
9. **Update and further assignments with regards to Budget Day (Saturday, June 24th)** – Jay reported on speakers: the Mayor declined (will be out of town), and declined, Wesson has yet to respond although the deadline has passed. Grayce Liu, Ron Galperin, interim CAO Richard Lewellyn and Paul Krekorian will speak for the City while LA Times writer Kerry Cavanaugh and Austin Beutner will raise stakeholder concerns. Alternate speakers to approach would include Dennis Zine, Zev Yaroslavsky and Warren Buffett. A decision was made to have Channel 35 broadcast the plenary session as well have providing a livestream link to expand our audience. Otherwise, there was minimal discussion on assignments and other preparation due to the limited turnout.
10. **Motion to approve funding of up to \$3,000 for note-takers for the Regional breakouts at Budget Day.** MOTION tabled due to lack of quorum but will proceed in principle to set this up and retroactively approve at the Budget Advocates' next meeting.
11. **Discussion and possible motion to approve Budget Day hand-outs.** TABLED due to materials not having been circulated. Brigitte to send out what the committee has currently so the hand-outs can be reviewed by all Budget Advocates PRIOR to the next meeting and finalization discussed.
12. **Continued discussion and possible motion regarding more equitable funding of Neighborhood Councils** – Jay reported on what had been discussed at the LANCC meeting that morning. A committee will be formed with one representative from each Region to address how the money currently distributed equally to each Neighborhood Council might be distributed more equitably given Neighborhood Council size ranges from under 3,500 stakeholders to over 110,000 and that basic costs vary significantly throughout the system. Should also address the issue of which Neighborhood Councils will be returning money to the General Fund and why; how Neighborhood Councils are fulfilling their mission to interact with stakeholders in using their funds, rollover provisions, etc. Jay has requested a breakdown of funds swept from Neighborhood Councils over the past 3 years to analyze. Point raised about subdividing some of the larger Neighborhood Councils was met with the cost issue – if pursued to its logical conclusion, the number of Neighborhood Councils would double along with the cost of funding them and the need for DONE staff to support them. To be continued...
13. **Additional discussion on attracting and educating future Budget Representatives and Budget Advocates.** Brigitte reported that Amy has some good ideas to be implemented for Budget Day. Amy needs to circulate for discussion. All Budget Advocates should actively recruit fresh Budget Representatives through the Neighborhood Councils for which they are responsible including outside the Neighborhood Council system to get people with talent, time and energy.
14. **Discussion and motion to approve the Budget Advocates' report on addressing the marijuana framework needed by the City** – TABLED till next meeting. Danielle needs to circulate for proposal for discussion.
15. **Discussion and motion to approve Budget Advocates' request that no City entity be allowed to request Neighborhood Council funding for materials that should be provided for in their own budgets.** Motion TABLED due to lack of quorum.
16. **Status of Budget Advocates marketing campaign through CityWatch.** Brigitte reported Adrienne has managed to get a number of articles published recently. People can access these at: <http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/component/search/?searchword=budget%20advocates&ordering=newest&searchphrase=exact&limit=30>. Would like to see more articles on why it's important for stakeholders/councilmembers to become a Budget Representative for their Neighborhood Council,

what being a Budget Advocate entails, and further promotion of Budget Day. Can some of these articles be submitted to DONE for inclusion in Grayce's newsletter?

17. **Housekeeping** - the file drawer is in an adjoining office. Jay to wrangle some muscle to move so Budget Advocates can maintain their own storage. Brian is researching phone conferencing options but pointed out most systems require a hard internet link which is not available in the DONE office or at the West LA Municipal Building.
18. **New business**. Ivan invited the Budget Advocates to prepare a Congress seminar based on our budget concerns with a snappy title. The theme this year is diversity. One suggestion is to address the number of Departments and entities requesting, often significant, money from the City but not addressing the costs involved nor where the City might find the necessary funds.
19. **Adjournment**. At 14:31 the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled Budget Advocate meeting will be on Saturday, May 20th at 10 am ALSO in West LA.