

# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

[www.ncbala.com](http://www.ncbala.com)

**West Los Angeles Civic Center  
1645 Corinth Ave #201, Los Angeles, CA 90025  
Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 10 AM**



## Meeting #21 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Kevin Davis	Absent	1	Liz Amsden	Present (10:03)	8
John DiGregorio	Excused	1	Jamie Tijerina	Absent	8
Rick Ramirez	By phone	1	Chelsea McElwee	Excused	9
Brian Allen	Present	2	Evelyn Valdez	Excused	9
Glenn Bailey	Excused	2	Carol Derby-David	Present	10
Jeffrey Mausner	By Phone	3	KJ Clark	Excused	10
Carol Newman	Present	3	Jay Handal	Present	11
Joanne Yvanek-Garb (10:07)	Present	3	Jacqueline Le Kennedy	Absent	11
Jeannette Hopp	Absent	4	Jon Liberman	By phone (10:11)	11
Howard Katchen	By phone	4	Melanie Labrecque	Excused	12
Brandon Pender	By phone	4	Danielle Sandoval	Absent	12
Jack Humphreville (10:03)	Present	5	Dr. Princess Sykes	Absent	12
Patrick Seamans	By phone (10:57)	5	VACANT		2
James Hornik	Absent	6	VACANT		5
Nina Smith	Present	6	VACANT		6
Tony Michaelis	Excused	7	VACANT		8
Barbara Ringuette (10:03)	Present	7	VACANT		9
Connie Acosta (10:03)	Present	7	VACANT		10

1. The meeting was called to order at 10 am.
2. Roll Call: see above; a quorum was present as of 10:07; stakeholders Ted Smith of Olympic Park and Farsheed Farhang of Playa Vista were in attendance.
3. Public Comment (max 2 minutes per person, max 10 minutes in aggregate) - none
4. Minutes from Meeting #20 (May 6<sup>th</sup>): MOTION by Joanne Yvanek-Garb to approve, seconded by Howard Katchen; no abstentions or nays, motion passes unanimously
5. Treasurer's report: MOTION by Howard Katchen to approve the Treasurer's report from May 6<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Joanne Yvanek-Garb; no abstentions, one nay, motion passes; MOTION by Howard Katchen to approve the Treasurer's report from May 6<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Carol Newman; no abstentions, one nay, motion passes; Howard Katchen reminded all Budget Advocates to request funding from Neighborhood Councils by June 1<sup>st</sup> when they attend meetings (info and forms are at the bottom of the NCBALA homepage); there is currently \$1.6 million in unspent Neighborhood Council funds.
6. Discussion of any feedback received on the Budget Advocates extending their term. Generally supportive, people should be clear that if Neighborhood Councils appoint new

Budget Representatives, any current Budget Advocate who is replaced is automatically removed as a Budget Advocate. People should direct any comments, pro and con, to Carol Newman by June 1<sup>st</sup> so she has time to address before we vote on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

7. Discussion on moving the date of the Mayor's budget release (see below)
8. Further discussion of Budget Day 2019
  - (a) status of speakers – Mayor Garcetti is not available, need a high-visibility alternate who also has the knowledge to speak on the City budget, Jack Humphreville will approach Emily Albert-Reyes from the LA Times, possible alternates included: Jan Perry, Sheila Kuehl, Hilda Solis, Stacey Abrams and Larry Elder; Jay Handal will approach Councilmember Mike Bonin as a stand-in from the Budget and Finance Committee (since its chair, Paul Krekorian, will be out of town) and to specifically address the fiscal impacts of homelessness on multiple departments;
  - (b) report back on publicity placement and save-the-dates in DONE newsletter, monthly profile, CityWatch, through Councilmembers' offices, to newsletters, papers, LA Weekly, LA Times, NextDoor – tabled due to the Outreach chair being ill;
  - (c) report back on development of tri-folds and other hand-outs – has been circulated to the executive committee for comment and final versions circulated shortly so these can be printed and used to promote Budget Day;
  - (d) suggestions for swag – MOTION by Jay Handal, seconded by Brian Allen not to have anything other than the handouts in process - no abstentions or nays, motion passes unanimously;
  - (e) status EPK – John DiGregorio has indicated he needs an editor, please e-mail him if you know of anyone with the requisite expertise qualified to do business with the City;
  - (f) Liz Amsden will get a local quote for Outreach to compare with their current quote for lanyards and badges.
9. Inviting Budget Representatives and stakeholders to shadow Budget Advocates - tabled to next board
  - (a) Status of attracting people to serve as Budget Representatives – Budget Advocates should work with the Neighborhood Councils for which they are responsible to encourage appointment of Budget Representatives and participation in Budget Day, hope to get tri-folds printed to take to their meetings;
  - (b) Soliciting potential Budget Advocates – Budget Advocates need to actively solicit, particularly in Regions with known vacancies.
10. Outreach
  - (a) Status CityWatch articles – Jeff Mausner worked with CityWatch to ensure a better disclaimer and, subject to CityWatch providing the headline, e-blasting Budget Advocate articles;

- (b) Status updating Facebook page – John DiGregorio will swap out images with more current photos, he and Jamie Tijerina will be updating all social media through Budget Day; click on <https://www.facebook.com/LABudgetAdvocates/> to access;
- (c) Status radio promo campaign – Brandon submitted copy for two spots and will be advising the Co-Chairs on how many interviews will be needed along with a tentative schedule.

11. Status of obtaining data from City offices as to what Budget Advocates have accomplished over the past five years – discussion on approach resulting in requesting Barbara Ringuette request CAO analysts to provide more real data on the results of each recommendation; especially relevant since the Budget and Finance Committee has been referring to the Budget Advocates in their discussions with Departments.
12. Report back on City brush clearing – tabled (Tony Michaelis out of the country)
7. Discussion moving the Mayor’s budget release to an earlier date (from above) Jack Humphreville revisited the need for a significantly earlier release of the Mayor’s budget (February 1<sup>st</sup> was recommended) to increase transparency and allow effective input from the Budget and Finance Committee, the departments and stakeholders. With over 300 report-back requests this year, it is difficult to see how the volume of information can be absorbed, integrated and released in just over a month.
13. New Business  
Jack Humphreville suggested and will draft a critique of the Budget and Finance Committee process, and what the Budget Advocates perceived to be concerns; next year’s Budget Advocates should not only meet with the Committee but also should focus on the top 5 to 10 priority Departments; if the Mayor sets policy framework and the CAO fills in the detail, the Budget Advocates should be independent reviewers asking questions on behalf of stakeholders  
Other concerns discussed included:
  - current hot button issues including climate change and homelessness;
  - the need for a professional City Manager
  - transparency in regards to the fund swapping between departments
  - oversight of the budgeted monies outside of the General Fund (of the \$10.4 billion budget only \$6.5 billion is part of the General Fund)
  - the need for more transparency vis-à-vis the Special Funds and how to address issues related to them (possibly underway in Galperin’s Revenue Committee)
  - the need to understand and audit the Council District discretionary funds
  - how to attract the caliber of people with the expertise to do Budget Advocate work
14. Adjournment was at 11:27 am.

Our next meeting will be at 7 pm on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the DONE offices in City Hall.