

# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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



Neighborhood Empowerment Office, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Suite 2005  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Monday, October 5, 2017 – 7 pm

## Meeting #7 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Present by phone	9	Brigette Kidd	Present by phone	9
Brian Allen	Present	2	Janet Kim	Present	7
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Melanie Labrecque	Present by phone	12
Glenn Bailey	Present	2	Jon Liberman	Excused	11
Agnes Copeland	Excused	5	Michael Menjivar	Present by phone	4
Freddy Cupen-Ames	Present	4	William Morrison	Present by phone	8
Carol Derby-David	Present	10	Carol Newman	Present	3
Kevin Davis	Absent	1	Robert Newman	Present	6
John DiGregorio	Present	1	Christopher Perry	Absent	9
Adrienne Nicole Edwards	Present by phone	6	Rick Ramirez	Present by phone	1
Don Evans	Absent	3	Barbara Ringuette	Present left 8:45 pm	7
Valaida Gory	Present by phone	10	Estuardo Ruano	Present at 7:15 pm	7
Diedra Greenaway	Present by phone	2	Patrick Seamans	Present by phone left 8:20 pm	5
Jay Handal	Present by phone	11	Eleanor Smith	Absent	10
James Hornik	Present	6	Dr. Princess Sykes	Absent	12
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Lynda Valencia	Present	8
Howard Katchen	Present	4	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Excused	3
Jacqueline Le Kennedy	Absent	11	Vacant Seat		12

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Co-Chair Liz Amsden.
2. **Roll Call** – A quorum of 26 members was present (see list above). John Darnell DONE's Neighborhood Council Advocate as well as Budget Representatives Garry Fordyce from North Hills West and Brian Pender from Greater Toluca Lake (arrived 8:35), and past Budget Advocate Susan Reimers (arrived 7:20) were in attendance.
3. **Public Comment on non-agenda items** – None
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #5 (September 5<sup>th</sup>) and #6 (September 16<sup>th</sup>)**  
Motion by **Howard Katchen** to approve the September 5<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by **Lynda Valencia**, and passed with 25 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 1 not yet present.  
Motion by **Howard Katchen** to approve the September 16<sup>th</sup> minutes, seconded by **Lynda Valencia**, and passed with 22 ayes, 0 noes, 3 abstentions (Robert, Janet, Liz), and 1 not yet present (Estuardo).
5. **Treasurer's report** –Howard Katchen, Treasurer  
**MOTION** by **Jay Handal** to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by **Barbara Ringuette**, and passed with 25 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Bailey, Cupen-Ames, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Edwards, Gory, Greenaway, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen,

Kidd, Kim, Labrecque, Menjivar, Morrison, C. Newman, R. Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, Seamans, and Valencia), 0 noes, and 1 abstention (Ruano).

- a. Howard to check with DONE on Lloyds and Apple One invoices and payment. Liz working on getting payment for parking passes refunded.
  - b. The procedure for Neighborhood Councils to contribute funds to Budget Advocates is as follows: Budget Advocates ask Neighborhood Councils for funds and each NC that wishes to contribute needs to fill out a Board Action Certification form (BAC) submit it with an invoice for the amount approved and create a check payable to the City of Los Angeles for the Budget Advocates.
  - c. Jay will create and obtain approval on a Budget Advocate invoice that can be distributed to Neighborhood Council treasurers.
6. **Motion to approve \$50 to register at the Models of Pride event at USC for outreach with high school and college age Angelenos in the LGBTQ communities and their allies**  
**MOTION** by **Jay Handal** to approve \$50 to register at the Models of Pride event at USC for outreach with high school and college age Angelenos in the LGBTQ communities and their allies, seconded by **Freddy Cupen-Ames**, and passed with 26 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Bailey, Cupen-Ames, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Edwards, Gory, Greenaway, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kidd, Kim, Labrecque, Menjivar, Morrison, C. Newman, R. Newman, Ramirez, Ringuette, Ruano, Seamans, and Valencia), 0 noes, and 0 abstentions.
7. **Working with Budget Representatives and Neighborhood Councils** – John DiGregorio
- a. Dr. Sykes needs to sign up to cover her share of Region 12 Neighborhood Council meetings. Sheryl to send Jay Region 12 meeting days.
  - b. Update the google doc after every visit to a Neighborhood Council. People having trouble accessing the google docs should contact Jay.
  - c. Send John issues that come up in Neighborhood Council meetings. Based on Sun Valley meeting, stakeholders are not happy with assessments from RecycLA waste franchisees. John requested concrete examples from each Region of problems with the rollout of the new Sanitation program for businesses and multi-family units.
  - d. John asked for headshots to be sent to him for the website. He will be adding social media handles and a link to the attendance roster. Contact him with any concerns about website content.
  - e. Budget Advocates should take video clips at meetings they attend and send to John. The Outreach Committee has about 1,000 hours of content they are editing. John's volunteers will put together a video on the Congress of Neighborhoods to distribute. John is requesting funding to take the video program to the next level. There will be a presentation at our next meeting.
  - f. The Outreach Committee needs content and ideas for CityWatch articles. There is a CityWatch writer assigned to help develop articles. Send John upcoming events in your Regions.
  - g. Send relevant information for press releases to Liz and Jay.
  - h. In process of linking up with other organizations. Send John contacts for other budget-related organizations. Looking for hook for Homelessness issues.
8. **Discussion on changing Budget Advocates name, logo, website and materials** –  
**MOTION** by **Glenn Bailey** to refer this item to the bylaws committee, second by **Lynda Valencia**. Failed with 3 ayes, 23 noes, and 0 abstentions.  
**MOTION** by **Liz Amsden** to defer this item to the next meeting, second by **Carol Newman**. Passed with 17 ayes, 7 noes, 1 abstention, and 1 left meeting early.
- a. Liz will circulate list of names for consideration and agendaize for vote at our next meeting.
9. **Bylaws Committee Report** – Meeting this Sunday. Send Carol Newman any other suggested changes.

10. **Motion to approve Grievance Panel report** – Carol Newman  
*Grievance Panel report conclusion: Based on the... evidence acquired, it is the recommendation of this Grievance Panel that Mr. Menjivar did not act in a manner that would justify his removal, and her should not be removed.*  
**MOTION** by **Carol Newman** to approve the report as corrected, second by **Lynda Valencia**. Passed with 23 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention, and 2 left meeting early.  
Brian to make corrections and send to Carol.
11. **Motion to draft and circulate a letter from the Budget Advocates addressing City Council violations of Charter Section 9 in conjunction with Kevin De Leon's recent remarks** – referred to Outreach Committee to address.
12. **Update on working with the Mayor's Budget team. Embedding with Department budgeting processes** – Matt Szabo said discussion was about working with the Revenue Committee, not the Mayor's Budget team and the latter is 'not going to happen'. Will continue to address since involvement is critical to the Budget Advocate mission.
13. **Revenue Committee Report** – John DiGregorio
  - a. A list of possible revenue items is being created for the White Paper.
  - b. Need access to detailed information from the Mayor's office to be effective.
14. **Committee meetings with Departments** – Check Committee google doc for updates of members and meetings.
  - a. Please update the google doc on meeting times and reports status.
  - b. John has cameras and tripods available. E-mail him to use for video interviews.
  - c. Please contact Jay and Liz ASAP with questions or concerns.
15. **Update on White Paper plans** – Jack Humphreville
  - a. Need a title that gets media attention and attracts stakeholders to read without turning off the electors.
  - b. Barbara in discussion with CAO's office about additional training on how the City's budget process works.
16. **Should the Budget Advocates offer Early White Paper Recommendations this year? If so, on what issues and who will draft and distribute?** – Should get something out ASAP, possibly addressing the Mayor's Budget Policy letter.
17. **Regional Budget Day Committee report**
  - a. John to check if January 20<sup>th</sup> conflicts with the Empowerment Congress. Will confirm back to Chairs or if it needs to move to January 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. When confirmed, John will send 'Save-the-date' notices to Neighborhood Councils et al.
18. **Planning for a Budget 101 training and information session for the FY 2018-2019 incoming Budget Representatives and Advocates** – discussion addressed two trainings
  - a. One to give Council members and stakeholders pertinent information for the June 16, 2018 Budget Day which would need to happen by the end of April or the very beginning of May i.e. prior to the last meeting of every Neighborhood Council before Budget Day.
  - b. The other for Budget Advocates on the budget process, preferably in November.
19. **Housekeeping**
  - a. If you have not already done so, please email Liz the number on your parking pass.
  - b. Tested one video conferencing system – image of meeting was good but one to three second delay depending on bandwidth means it is not feasible for the Budget Advocates' needs. Brian will continue to research.
20. **New business** – None

21. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am in the West Los Angeles Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom  
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

DRAFT