

# Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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Neighborhood Empowerment Office, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Suite 2005, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Monday, December 4, 2017 – 7 pm

## Meeting #11 Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Present by phone	9	Brigitte Kidd	Present by phone	9
Brian Allen	Present	2	Janet Kim	Present by phone	7
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Melanie Labrecque	Present by phone	12
Glenn Bailey	Present	2	Jon Liberman	Present	11
Agnes Copeland	Excused	5	Michael Menjivar	Present by phone	4
Freddy Cupen-Ames	By phone 7:38 pm in person 8:00 pm	4	William Morrison	Present by phone	8
Carol Derby-David	Absent	10	Carol Newman	Present by phone	3
Kevin Davis	Present by phone	1	Robert Newman	Absent	6
John DiGregorio	Excused	1	Christopher Perry	Present	9
Adrienne Nicole Edwards	Absent	6	Rick Ramirez	Present	1
Don Evans	Resigned	3	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Valaida Gory	Present	10	Estuardo Ruano	Absent	7
Diedra Greenaway	Absent	2	Danielle Sandoval	Present by phone	12
Jay Handal	By phone 7:22 pm	11	Patrick Seamans	Absent	5
James Hornik	Present by phone	6	Eleanor Smith	Absent	10
Jack Humphreville	Present	5	Dr. Princess Sykes	Present	12
Howard Katchen	By phone 7:12 pm	4	Lynda Valencia	Excused	8
Jacqueline Le Kennedy	Absent	11	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Absent	3

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by Co-Chair Liz Amsden.
2. **Roll Call** – A quorum of 23 members was present (see list above). Budget Representative Garry Fordyce from North Hills was also present.
3. **Public Comment on non-agenda items** – None
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #10 (November 18<sup>th</sup>)**  
Motion by **Liz Amsden** to approve the meeting #10 November 18<sup>th</sup> minutes as corrected, seconded by **William Morrison**, and passed with 21 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 not yet present.
5. **Treasurer's report** – Howard Katchen
  - a. The NC account has a balance of \$32,592.15, and the DONE account has a balance of \$7,148.98.
  - b. Payment of old invoices including over \$1,200 owed to Lloyd Staffing from May through November finally in process
  - c. DONE has not paid P-card creating issues with paying CityWatch and the NCBALA website - Howard to follow up
  - d. Need to address DONE's fiscal irresponsibility in not paying bills (Congress also having problems).

- e. Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report – Motion by **Jon Liberman** to approve, seconded by **Barbara Ringuette**, and passed with 19 ayes (Ale, Amsden, Davis, Gory, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kidd, Kim, Labrecque, Liberman, Menjivar, Morrison, C. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, and Sykes), 0 noes, 3 abstentions (Allen, Bailey, and Sandoval), and 1 not yet present (Cupen-Ames).
6. **Bylaws Committee report**
  - a. The committee is meeting next by telephone on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Were advised BAs’ change to two-year terms had been discussed at DONE and BONC meetings. Liz to contact DONE and BONC to advise Jay and her of any concerns in writing so the Budget Advocates can address.
7. **First reading of proposed amendments to Article IV and Exhibit B of the Budget Advocates’ Bylaws** – Carol Newman
  - a. First reading of Exhibit B, list of standing committees, Item 5 Finance Committee removed.
  - b. First reading of an amended Article IV, redefining officers’ duties to make the descriptions more accurate. Howard requested until Friday to review the Treasurer language, committee was asked to add monitoring of compliances. Accordingly, first reading of a new version incorporating additional changes will be at next meeting.
8. **Update on White Paper**
  - a. Committee reports are due by December 15<sup>th</sup>, copy Jay, Liz, Jack and Carol
  - b. Committee chairs whose reports will not be submitted by the deadline need to advise the foregoing of the reason for the delay.
  - c. Jack to submit a draft of the White Paper by the first of the year; will consist of 4 or 5 topics targeting some of the games played by those constructing the City budget
  - d. What elements of the White Paper and reports to include in the Regional Budget Days will be addressed at next meeting.
9. **Report on response to the Early White Paper**

Jack reported positive response to the Early White Paper including having several local papers pick it up, however, Jay reports he has received no response from City Hall.
10. **Working with Budget Representatives and Neighborhood Councils**
  - a. Glenn did a preliminary list of Neighborhood Councils who reported that a Budget Advocate had not attended their meeting but is waiting to update based on the google doc. Jay to check on view-only issue with the google doc so Glenn can access.
  - b. Anyone having problems accessing the google doc needs to contact Jay.
  - c. The site still is not being updated consistently. Liz to follow up with John.
  - d. Discussion on ensuring CityWatch articles are pointed without offending department.
11. **Regional Budget Day plans**
  - a. Region 8 still needs to confirm a venue.
  - b. Liz to have DONE add Regional Budget Day to their calendar.
  - c. Barbara to contact John and follow up on recording speakers from the Mayors Buudget Team and the CAO’s office.
  - d. Save-the-date flyer, format, renting tablets & survey cards deferred to next meeting due to John DiGregorio’s absence.
12. **Jack and John report-back on Lawmaker.io project**

Jack reported John was finalizing the language to be circulated to all. To vote, people need to register with their addresses to show they are qualified stakeholders.
13. **Jon report-back on LAPL response to NBC news story**

Now a Council File – CF17-2564-S1 – addressing the potential misuse of \$4 million in City funds if the LAPD and/or private security are not doing their jobs. Glenn will follow up on the issue.

**14. Quick update on CAO's City Budget Process part 2**

- a. Barbara reported the material was excellent and will be posted on the NCBALA website.
- b. Would be good to repeat next year, but before the meetings with the departments.

**15. Hot issues**

- a. City Cannabis regulation: Jay raised a concern about students losing jobs because the state regulations state people must be 21 years old to work in a dispensary. The City Council has voted to remove the community reinvestment funding from the revenue stream and referred the issue to the CAO to find another source.
- b. Homelessness: The City Attorney has put Gita O'Neill in charge of homelessness policies and strategies to work with the neighborhoods to expedite getting services for the homeless into the Council Districts where they are needed.
- c. Infrastructure: Data from a street-relate infrastructure survey from this fall was circulated to Budget Advocates as something to build on for the Regional Budget Day survey.

16. Housekeeping – Business cards have still not been distributed; hopefully next meeting.

**17. New business**

- a. Need a new BA for Region 3 to replace Don Evans who has stepped down.
- b. Jack reported the judgement obligation bond will not proceed,
- c. Glenn suggested Budget Advocates monitor Budget and Finance committee agendas and attend their meetings, Barbara advised focus at the moment is on liability settlements
- d. Howard reminded committee chairs to ask their departments on amounts of money swept back into the General Fund.

18. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the West Los Angeles Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom  
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates