

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

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Neighborhood Empowerment Office, City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Suite 2005, Los Angeles, CA 90012



Monday, August 7, 2017

7:00 pm

Minutes

Board Members	Roll Call	Region	Board Members	Roll Call	Region
Ivette Ale	Present by phone	9	Brigette Kidd	Present 7:30 pm	9
Brian Allen	Present	2	Janet Kim	Present	7
Liz Amsden	Present	8	Melanie Labrecque	Present by phone	12
Glenn Bailey	Excused	2	Jon Liberman	Present	11
Adria Brodie	Present	4	Michael Menjivar	Present	4
Agnes Copeland	Present	5	William Morrison	Absent	8
Carol Derby-David	Present	10	Carol Newman	Present	3
Kevin Davis	Excused	1	Robert Newman	Present	6
John DiGregorio	Present	1	Christopher Perry	Present	9
Adrienne Nicole Edwards	Absent	6	Rick Ramirez	Present	1
Don Evans	Present	3	Barbara Ringuette	Present	7
Valaida Gory	Present	10	Estuardo Ruano	Present	7
Diedra Greenaway	Present	2	Danielle Sandoval	Present	12
Jay Handal	Present	11	Patrick Seamans	Present by phone at 8:15 left at 8:35 pm	5
James Hornik	Present	6	Eleanor Smith	Present	10
Jack Humphreville	Present by phone	5	Dr. Princess Sykes	Present	12
Howard Katchen	Present	4	Lynda Valencia	Present	8
Jacqueline Le Kennedy	Present	11	Joanne Yvanek-Garb	Present at 7:25 pm	3

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Jay Handal.
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum of 32 board members was present (see list above). John Darnell, DONE's Neighborhood Council Advocate, was present. Budget Reps Garry Fordyce from North Hills West and Jeanette Hopp from Van Nuys, and Stakeholder Ramona Smith from Reseda were also present.
3. **Public Comment** – None
4. **Approval of Minutes from Meetings #24 (June 17th), #1 (June 24th) and #2 (July 15th).**
Motion by **Howard Katchen** to approve the minutes for meeting #24 (June 17th) as amended/corrected, second by **Liz Amsden**, and passed with 24 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Evans, Gory, Greenaway, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Kim, Labrecque, Liberman, Menjivar, C. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, Smith, and Sykes), 0 no, 4 abstentions (Brodie, Copeland, R. Newman, and Valencia), and 4 not yet present (Ruano, Sandoval, Seamans, and Yvanek-Garb).
Motion by **Howard Katchen** to approve the minutes for meeting #1 (June 24th) as amended/corrected, second by **Robert Newman**, and passed with 26 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Brodie, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Evans, Gory, Greenaway, Handal, Hornik,

Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Kim, Labrecque, Liberman, Menjivar, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, Smith, and Sykes), 0 no, 2 abstentions (Copeland, and Valencia), and 4 not yet present (Ruano, Sandoval, Seamans, and Yvanek-Garb).

Motion by **John DiGregorio** to approve the minutes for meeting #2 (July 15th) as amended/corrected, second by **Howard Katchen**, and passed with 27 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Brodie, Copeland, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Evans, Gory, Greenaway, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Kim, Labrecque, Liberman, Menjivar, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, Smith, and Sykes), 0 no, 1 abstentions (Valencia), and 4 not yet present (Ruano, Sandoval, Seamans, and Yvanek-Garb).

5. **Treasurer's Report and Motion to Approve** – Howard Katchen, Treasurer
 - a. Update on issues with DONE – Howard commented that he just received the reconciliation from Brian Allen tonight and needs time to review it.
 - b. Brian Allen reported that he has an agreement with Armando and Mann Quinn to get monthly updates on the status of BA funds.
 - c. Brian Allen commented that the information he provided to Treasurer, Howard Katchen is current through July 2017.
 - d. Motion by **Christopher Perry** to reimburse Jay Handal \$198.36 for out of pocket expenses for the Budget Advocates Retreat on July 15, 2017; 1) \$100.90 McDonalds, 2) \$47.85 Starbucks, 3) \$35.00 Western Bagel and 4) \$14.61 Ralphs, second by **John DiGregorio**, and passed with 26 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Brodie, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Evans, Gory, Greenaway, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Kim, Labrecque, Liberman, Menjivar, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, Smith, Sykes and Valencia), 0 no, 2 abstentions (Copeland and Handal), and 4 not yet present (Ruano, Sandoval, Seamans, and Yvanek-Garb).
6. **Working with Budget Representatives and Neighborhood Councils: go-round identifying Which BAs are responsible for what NCs and which NCs are still missing Budget Reps.**
 - a. BAs for each region need to get together and decide who will visit which NCs.
 - b. A report was circulated with information on Budget Reps for NCs who have appointed BRs.
 - c. If an NC has not appointed BRs the defaults are the President and the Treasurer.
 - d. At the next meeting people need to report back on which NCs have been visited and the status of BRs.
7. **Working with the Mayor's Budget team** – Brian Allen
 - a. The Mayor's office has been contacted regarding embedding BA's in departments.
 - b. He has not received a response and will contact them again tomorrow.
8. **Discussion on elements to include in Outreach and establishment of a committee to create a plan**
 - a. Outreach is BAs outreach to NCs, the City Council, and to department heads, via social media, email blasts, newsletters, and any other method the committee can think of.
 - b. Outreach is a year long commitment, not just a one off.
 - c. Members; Adrienne, John D., Estuardo and Don.
 - d. Joanne will get the contact information of Communications Directors for City Council members again this year.
9. **Discussion on using the copy in the Budget Day flyers on the website including any revisions and possible motion to print for use at NC meetings and other events**
 - a. The copy will be worked on by the newly formed Outreach Committee.
 - b. Want to get a final put on the website by the Monday after the next meeting.
10. **Discussion on website update and possible formation of a committee to oversee and provide oversight through the year – or to include under Outreach** – The Outreach Committee will work on this issue.
11. **Discussion on Bylaws, possible amendments and formation of a committee to address** – Members; Brian, Linda, Princess, and Jon L. and Parliamentarian and Chair Carol Newman.

12. **Discussion on Budget Advocates/Budget Representatives 101 for Congress of Neighborhoods workshop: possible formation of a committee to address**
 - a. The focus will be *Why is it so important for Stakeholders and Citizens, to know the budget? Why is it important for people to be involved?*
 - b. The presentation should be about 75 minutes.
 - c. Jack, Brian, Brigette, John and Joanne want to speak during the session.
13. **Start a committee to work on Regional Budget Day including but not limited to: potential dates, venues with WiFi, possible guests and budget (venue, parking, food & drink, etc.)**
 - a. Referred to the Outreach Committee.
 - b. The Committee needs to focus on a date. Perhaps in October or early November, January is too late.
 - c. Valaida suggested to use the data we have from prior Regional Budget Days to focus the agenda, as the issues seem to be very similar from year to year.
 - d. This item can be revisit after Congress.
14. **Discussion of a White Paper theme – please come prepared with ideas (review the notes from Budget Day break-out meetings for local priorities, take a look at the 2020 Commission Reports on the NCBALA website, talk to stakeholders, etc.)** – John DiGregorio asked people to think of a tag line, and email it to him for consideration in Outreach Committee.
15. **Discussion on what Departments to focus on – confirmation of committees and chairs** – Please see the updated Google Doc for members and chair.
16. **Discussion on areas where mentoring would be of help – those interested in being mentored and those interested in functioning as a mentor to e-mail Jay and Liz for assignments** – Jon Liberman will circulate a list of available mentors.
17. **Set a new date, time and place for the postponed training** – Barbara Ringuette
 - a. The training can be held in the West LA NC office.
 - b. A Doodle will be sent out with possible dates and times.
18. **Discussion and possible formation of a Revenue Committee to shadow City Hall and work with the White Paper Committee on revenue generating ideas for the City** – Already addressed in committees.
19. **Discussion on question about how much money goes back to the General Fund by Department (data from the last 3 years to have been distributed with the agenda or this item pushed to next meeting)**
 - a. Do not have the information.
 - b. Jack will contact the Mayor's office to ask for a breakdown of how much money was returned to the General fund by department.
20. **Discussion on how best to use the concerns that were brought up in the break-out sessions at Budget Day: volunteer(s) requested to codify them by type and region** – Addressed in item #13.
21. **Discussion of committee suggestions on developing a more equitable funding model for Neighborhood Councils: determination on next steps** – Jay Handal

Motion by **Brian Allen** to write a letter to DONE, Grayce Liu, and Armando stating that we have evidence that DONE is not doing their job in monitoring NCs as their NEAs are not taking action when they see things being done improperly, second by **Jon Liberman**, and passed with 24 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Brodie, Derby-David, Evans, Greenaway, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Kennedy, Kidd, Kim, Labrecque, Liberman, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, Ruano, Sykes, Valencia, and Yvanek- Garb), 2 no (Katchen and Menjivar), 5 abstentions (Copeland, DiGregorio, Gory, Sandoval, and Seamans), and 1 out of room (Smith).

22. Discussion on urging that the City divest from Wells Fargo for opening illegal bank accounts targeting communities of color, and financing the Dakota Access Pipeline and Keystone XL Pipelines, and set a policy of divestment/refusal to invest with institutions that violate Angelenos' ethics. This would include discussion on determining what institution could replace Wells Fargo with the possibility of pushing forward on a study and business plan for a public bank for the City with a social community development mandate and significant separation and protection from the control of City Council

Motion by **Brian Allen** to table for further information, second by **Agnes Copeland**, and passed with 32 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Brodie, Copeland, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Evans, Greenaway, Gory, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Kim, Labrecque, Liberman, Menjivar, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, Ruano, Sandoval, Seamans, Smith, Sykes, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 no, and 0 abstentions.

23. Further discussion and possible motion to approve up to \$9,500 to purchase a conference call video speaker system (information on alternatives to have been distributed with the agenda or this item pushed to next meeting)

Motion by **Brian Allen** to table for further information, second by **Agnes Copeland**, and passed with 32 ayes (Ale, Allen, Amsden, Brodie, Copeland, Derby-David, DiGregorio, Evans, Greenaway, Gory, Handal, Hornik, Humphreville, Katchen, Kennedy, Kidd, Kim, Labrecque, Liberman, Menjivar, C. Newman, R. Newman, Perry, Ramirez, Ringuette, Ruano, Sandoval, Seamans, Smith, Sykes, Valencia, and Yvanek-Garb), 0 no, and 0 abstentions.

24. Housekeeping

- a. Rescheduling of Monday meetings in September (Labor Day) and January (New Year's Day) – A Doodle will be sent to determine availability for proposed alternate dates.
- b. Update on file drawers and moving Budget Advocate assets from DONE to West Los Angeles. – Jay reported that we still have not moved the file cabinets.
- c. Status parking passes – Let Liz know if you still need a pass.
- d. Status photos for website – Please submit your photo if you have not.
- e. Status BA business cards & e-mail addresses – The Co-Chairs are aware of the issues with the email. The issues are being worked on by the Webmaster. These issues need to be resolved before business cards can be finalized.

25. New Business

- a. Joanne announced that tomorrow the Health, Education, and Neighborhood Councils Committee is meeting on on-line voting.

26. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Saturday, August 19, 2017 at the West LA Municipal Building at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Akerblom
for the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates