

**Chinatown Working Group Meeting
December 6, 2021**

6:30pm, on Zoom <https://jjay-cuny.zoom.us/j/84863918518>

Voting members present: National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Steph Kranes, Briar Winters); Chinese Staff & Workers Association (Zishun Ning); Art Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez); Youth Against Displacement (Caitlin Kelmar); East River Park Action (Fannie Ip)

Also present: rob hollander (LESRRD), Conor Allerton (Chris Marte's office) Max Parrott (amNew York), Michael Cohen (citygroup architects), Tom LaGatta (Downtown Independent Democrats); Megan (Sixth Street Community Center); Grace Lee (Children First)

Meeting called to order, 6:430pm, Tom LaGatta facilitating

Minutes of the previous meeting are approved without objections.

Agenda:

1. NYCHA Blueprint
2. Plan data updates -CWG 2021 Plan document
3. Member updates

Max Parrott is writing about the SOHO NOHO issue
We discussed it before, not in the agenda today.

1. NYCHA Blueprint

Rob:

I was asked to discuss this with Demaris and I ended up talking to Margarita Lopez about it as well

what GOLES is doing about the Blueprint.

she spoke to me with her personal opinion, not her coalition's.

The work on getting the Blueprint through is not ideal and it would be best if we could wait until the Build Back Better bill is passed, cause it would have a lot of money for public housing the problem with Blueprint is that there is no other way out

NYCHA is being defunded by the federal gov cause it's public

section 8 is being funded by the gov cause most of it ends in private landlords.

NYCHA is losing money

they can't manage so there is no other alternative but move towards section 8

as i said before this is not ideal

wait for the BBB to be resolved

contacting our senators

Briar:

it's important to bring it all together, keeping the unity
preventing the speculation that is so threatening to these public housing developments.

rob:

let's wait for Vanessa to discuss more

2. Plan data update

Conor Allerton: there's been work prior on updating the data

my role is incorporating that work into the new report

I recently joined Chris Marte's office as director of land use

make everything we can to realize the plan

Pratt report and work with the city

release an updated report focusing on the options that were chosen

we want a more digested version.

the pratt report is a holistic document but a bit too long and detailed

introduce the work of this group

everything is being drafted at the moment and we are getting close to release within the group to
get feedback. to have ready at the end of the year.

15 pages approximately.

Rob:

I looked at the doc today and saw that the history section was added.

we need a meeting people who are writing to come to terms on what we are going to put there
history section, is a very delicate section

any chin for example people who are very respected and have influence and have been involved
in CWG, they were there.

it has to be perfectly accurate and in no way partial.

facts have to be absolutely correct , editorialization has to be kept at minimum, you don't need it
you need facts and our solution.

there's a debate on the East village was up zone or downzone and it's only going to confuse the
issue

since I'm the only one who was there, I think I need to do this with Kai.

Conor:

I appreciate the feedback

we don't need to have this whole conversation now

Caitlin:

working document somebody added my notes, only one part I worked on

it's important to be clear with our perspective cause groups that supported it originally now are
supporting only part of the plan.

I don really care about people that left cause they have not continued.

this section is to put our perspective
this is not the Pratt report
this is a political document
it's not an academic paper, it's the reason why we need this plan
and if people want to give feedback maybe they will start coming to CWG meetings again.

Rob:
I didn't make any edits.
I just want to make sure the history is accurate

caitlin
which part is inaccurate

rob
"it was further organizing that resulted in the expansion of the boundaries"
it was something Victor Papa and myself advocated for. organizing had nothing to do with it and coalition was boycotting the group. there's more.. I can't recall right now..
another: "the city made an announcement in the town hall", that's not accurate.

maybe separate the notes

zishun
for the expansion it was many peoples' efforts, if you consider yourself part of the community organizing efforts cause it represents many in the community's view. you are a part of that effort.

rob:
were you there? no!

zishun:
is many people's effort including you.
the town hall meeting happened. I have the video.

fran:
I remember that town hall meeting

rob:
but the letter of rejection
is the important thing

briar:
is a good moment to reconvene.
when we have that done we'll bring it to the whole group

conor:

let's not edit other people's text, let's add comments not writing over or removing by accident.

tom:

let's try to use "suggestions" in the google doc

3. Member updates

Zishun

petition drive close to 9000 signatures

popular on social media cause eddie huang has been supporting on social media.

spreading far and wide

get to 10000 by the end of the year

use the petition

art exhibit in front of MOCA we will continue it at the citygroup space.

we'll send an email out. everyone is welcome to come.

doing a fundraising drive for Jing fong workers and will have print sale to support. and make a donation to support the workers' struggle.

Fanny:

last week tuesday we lost our appeal and that lifted our TRO 'that decision came very quick so the city decision to close the park

we were 2 days numb. this is it. so we scrambled decided an action and press conference this morning at 6:30am

Zishun, Chris, Caitlin were there

there were as many cops as there were us. it went well. 4 people got arrested. this time it was quick. in and out of the precinct.

lawyers working on an appeal of our appeal. now the southern part of east river park is closed.

bike path is closed

by tomorrow it's all going to be close

we are planning

Zishun

this is our last meeting during our current city council member

Fran:

AAD's next meeting is december 14, the mural is almost finished

Briar:

about SOHO NOHO

we are here and we will continue to fight the city's displacement agenda's.

Rob:

it's too bad CB2 didn't participate much in rezoning with our plan. this was preventable. they should have had more foresight

Megan

6th st community 19th 12 to 6pm

we can have materials and the petition.

we'll get petitions too at our food drive next friday.

Grace Lee

we have a few law suits we are preparing 250 water st. we have a legal team.

we love to talk more to get a task force

on the environmental issue.

DEC, engineers, etc.

Tom:

Monday Jan 10 next CWG meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Meeting minutes submitted by Francisca Benitez, AAD.