

DRAFT Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
December 3, 6:30pm, 275 Cherry Street Community Room

Voting members present: 83-85 Bowery Tenants Association (Vincent Cao); Art Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez, Cici Wu); Chinatown and Lower East Side Artists Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Zishun Ning); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Francisca Benitez, Joanna Estevez, Steph Kranes, Briar Winters); Youth Against Displacement (Caitlin Kelmar, Steph Kranes, Zishun Ning).

Also present: Bob Angles (New York City Democratic Socialists of America); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development).

Meeting called to order at 6:52pm, Briar Winters (NMASS), facilitating.

AGENDA

Proposed agenda: lawsuit, town hall and march, prison plan change, website, public advocate election.

Approved with no objections.

NOVEMBER MINUTES

Fran Benitez (AAD, CLAAD, MASS) notes two typos.

November minutes, with typos corrected, approved with no objections.

LAWSUIT

Zishun Ning (CSWA): AALDEF will take it on. Audrey is the lawyer. Tony will be a plaintiff. It will result in at most a declarative judgment.

TOWN HALL and MARCH

Steph Kranes (NMASS, YAD): The Coalition to Protect Chinatown and the Lower East Side has organized a Town Hall Wednesday, Dec 12, 6pm at PS2 on how to stop the towers focusing on mobilizing to pressure the city/mayor and the litigation piece. We have two committees engaging in outreach by door-knocking.

Joanne Estevez (NMASS): Raise the issue of air pollution from construction.

Zishun: Add other issues including the prison and Amazon to resonate across the city and unit with other forces.

Caitlin Kelmar (YAD): Speakers presentations. People are angry over the prison, amazon, rezonings. Thinking of a bigger action, maybe march in Jan. To unite with other forces across the city.

Fran: AAD has committed to attend and accompany people to the meeting. Has there been outreach to the Municipal Arts Society?

rob hollander (LESRRD): BAN has a good relationship with MAS.

Zishun: MAS supports the ULURP.

rob: but not because of any relationship with Chin....

Fran: We should give them our point of view so they may change.

Bob Angles (DSA): What happens to ULURP when CPC votes yes?

Caitlin: The Chin group will sue too. Chin, after the ethics claim , said we are confusing people. We should try to be focused in the town hall.

Joanna: People in our neighborhood don't show up.

Vincent Cao (83-85 Bowery TA): Ordinary people feel protesting is a waste of their time since they think they can't do anything. If you explain it to them, then they communicate to others with trust, in person, and then they tell their friends and family.

Steph: Connect to NMASS for scheduling outreach.

Fran: I will connect with a contact in Smith Houses.

Briar: Diem can put it on her list.

PRISON UPDATE

Joanne: It will not go forward.

rob: It will be built where the Tombs is instead. It will now be 50 stories, instead of 40 stories.

Caitlin : There will be no EIS.

Zishun: People still don't want a prison in Chinatown.

Briar: There is a jail now.

WEBSITE

Steph: My credit card changed but WIX doesn't allow you to change cards. I will get this fixed, not to worry.

Briar: We have a Facebook page. I'd like someone to take it on since I have left Facebook.

Fran: I'll take on the FB page just for functional posts.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE

Caitlin: The day the mayor announces the special election is the day that candidates begin gathering signatures.

Briar: Candidates include David Eisenbach who has been working closely with NMASS, Jumaane Williams, Melissa Mark-Viverito...

Caitlin: ... Michael Blake, a couple of assemblymembers from Brooklyn, Rafael Espenal Daniel O'Donell.

Briar: This is an opportunity to get the issue into the public. some condidate to stand with us. and relate to city-wide issues.

Zishun: We should take it to any of the candidates.

Fran: Invite them to the town hall.

Caitlin: To listen.

Briar: who will invite them?

Zishun: We asked Niou lin. The Coalition outreach committee will handle that.

Briar: Twitter might be useful -- candidates respond. Encourage them to come.

Joanne: 82 Rutgers asked for a loan to fix the windows as a result of the Extell construction. Construction of the towers will start it all again. Fourteen families have moved out in my building.

Steph: After press conference tomorrow we may do outreach starting at 265 Cherry Street.

Meeting adjourned, 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

rob hollander, Secretary
CWG