

Draft Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
October 5, 2020 6:30 via Zoom

Present: Artists against Displacement (Fran Benitez, Vanessa Thill); Chinese Staff & Workers Association (Zishun Ning); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Steph Kranes, Briar Winters);

Also Present: Lindsey Boylan; Jane (parent, Eldridge Street); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Nelson Mar; Shelly Silver (artist); Susan Yung (artist).

Meeting called to order 6:35pm, Steph Kranes (NMASS) facilitating.

Agenda:

LESON suit update

Coalition meeting update

Outreach & demonstrations

Website cost

Agenda approved by all present

Minutes

September 2020 minutes approved by all present.

LESON suit update

Steph: Ken and Audrey are no longer available to work on the suit, John Lobeer is taking over. He worked with TUFFLES and Paula. He's a zoning and land use attorney. He recently won a case against Extell (the East 60's). He wants to strengthen the lawsuit with the special permit in the LSRD, the requirement to meet authorization in the law, beyond merely providing findings. The Coalition agrees. We asked him to maintain our independence by filing our own brief. He agreed.

Demonstrations

Vanessa Thill (Art Against Displacement): Hundreds of people demonstrated at City Hall. There was a range of groups including anarchist groups, tenant associations, community people, people from Two Bridges many. We marched and then placed furniture in the

street. 15 were arrested in a planned civil disobedience including Mike Perles, Vanessa, and Grace from AAD. Well organized by Met Council. The arrests were meaningful.

Coalition outreach

Zishun Ning (CSWA): Tabling outside Fine Food has had a good response. It's an opportunity to explain the injunction and talk about Chris. Vanessa has helped us with the posting.

Briar Winters (NMASS): The 12-4 Saturday Elizabeth Garden event will include many local groups including the East River Park Action and others.

Website cost

Fran Benitez: We should all chip in for the website. Steph shouldn't have to pay it all herself.

[Members agree to contribute.]

Briar: We should try to connect again with Pete Davies or Sean Sweeney. Chris and Caitlin will be reaching out to them.

rob hollander (LESRRD): Diem may have a better connection with Pete. He ignored my last email.

Jane (parent, Eldridge Street): I received a defective mail-in ballot. How widespread is this?

Fran: I recommend voting in person during the early voting.

Jane: I don't trust the early voting. I have never seen such a messy and confusing election process as this year in Chinatown. There should be some group in Chinatown to focus on the election process.

Fran: Voting early will be the same as regular voting.

rob: You should contact the Board of Elections and explain what happened to your mail-in ballot so that they don't void your in-person vote.

Jane: I will go to the Board of Elections in person with the evidence.

Meeting adjourned, 7:15pm

Respectfully submitted
rob hollander, CWG sec'y