

DRAFT Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
June 3, 2019, 6:30pm, 275 Cherry Street Community Room

Voting members present: Bowery Alliance of Neighbors (Christina Glaviano); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Vincent Cao, Yao Mengxi, Zishun Ning); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Hank Dombrowski, Steph Kranes, Briar Winters); Youth Against Displacement (Caitlin Kelmar, Steph Kranes, Zishun Ning).

Also present: A. J. Artemel (Citygroup architects), Andrew Ford (candidate for 65th Assembly District Leader); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development).

Meeting called to order at 6:47pm, Hank facilitating.

May minutes

rob: Daisy sent me a clarification. I can amend the minutes if it represents a correction.
May minutes approved with Daisy's clarification.

Agenda

Mobilization for the press conference
Update on the city-wide meeting hosted by Human Scale
Upcoming political campaigns
Approaching the Public Advocate
Henry Street development applications
Updating the fold-out
The East Village commercial special district resolution
A quote for the press release.
Agenda approved by all present

MOBILIZATION FOR THE PRESS CONFERENCE

Steph: A team went through NYCHA properties and flyered at the subway stations.
Tomorrow a team will do more street flyering.

Briar: How about sending the flyer through the CWG mailing list?

rob: I can send the flyer out tonight.

QUOTE FOR THE PRESS RELEASE

Caitlin: I can draft a brief statement to the effect that if the city had implemented the community based rezoning this wouldn't have happened, and this is why the city

administration should respect community plans across the city. It should be a statement from one of the co-chairs.

Briar: You may use my name.

Caitlin will add it to the press release tonight.

REPORT ON THE CITY-WIDE MEETING ON ZONING

Briar: Lynn Ellsworth invited us to this city-wide meeting on zoning. Sunnyside, Gowanus, Flatbush and other neighborhoods were represented. Lynn is interested in the charter commission and has submitted a comment recommending that the City Planning Commission shouldn't have commissioners with ties to real estate, since it's a conflict of interest. A citywide action is being planned for October. We target should be the mayor, not DCP since DCP is not accountable to us but to the mayor.

Zishun: Others agreed with us on the target. Also we should focus on the next election. e should require each candidate to pledge not to take any real estate money.

Briar: We should consider how to education people on what the DCP is and does and who they are. It would be also good to meet other groups. Sunnyside and Gowanus are in crisis.

CAMPAIGNS

Andrew: Daisy Paez is the current District Leader for Assembly District 65. The election will be June 25 for District Leaders and for some judges. She's been concerned with the towers, parks, parking. She wants to represent the whole community and would like to have a united front.

Briar: Could she make a statement of support for the CWG plan?

Andrew: I will relay that message. We will both attend the press conference.

Briar: We are considering putting together a slate for the November elections.

Caitlin: We should consider challenging Kavanagh. He's chair of the State Senate Housing Committee and he has not been promoting the rent regulation bills.

rob: He's probably worried that the bills not result in losing the Democratic majority in the next election cycle. If he's replaced, who will be the new Housing chair?

Caitin: We don't know.

Biar: We should go to a group that has succeeded in an election process and ask them how they did it.

rob: The anti-bar proliferation effort beginning in 2004 succeeded in raising the issue in the City Council election, got a moratorium on all liquor licences in Community District 3 and got the first State Liquor Authority commissioner from the city. It started with a letter signed by 58 block associations published in the Villager asking all the candidates to take a stand on the loss of small businesses to bars. It was followed by a packed town hall meeting and further actions with other neighborhoods dealing with the same problem.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE

Briar: Arnet wanted a sit-in.

Caitlin: Should we table this until Arnette is back.

Hank: Jumaane has been vocal, but slightly vague.

Steph: He hedged on the commercial bill. He was equivocal in public which undermines the effort.

Briar: Do we want to spend our time on someone who won't commit? Or maybe we'd do better if we went with the city-wide group.

Caitlin: He shouldn't be the target of an action. If we spend effort on an action it should be an action against the mayor.

Hank: If other electeds can do something, then good, but if they're on the fence, there's no point in investing in it.

HENRY STREET DEVELOPMENT

rob: 227 feet high residential using the current zoning's community facility bonus. With unobstructed views, it will attract high renters, raising local real estate values and taxes. It is nearly three times the height that would have been allowed if the CWG plan had been implemented.

Caitlin: Let's get people involved. Parking and affordable housing is needed in the neighborhood. We can then go to the electeds with community support.

Christina: It'll be so destructive to that neighborhood. There are many small businesses there.

Hank: We need to educate the public about the development.

Briar: Also to let them know about the CWG plan.

Briar: Can this be part of the sticker outreach?

Caitlin: I can research the development.

AJ: Researching this sounds like something Citygroup would be interested in taking on.

UPDATING THE FOLD OUT

Steph: Michael of Citygroup volunteered to update the old fold-out to reflect what we're doing now.

Briar: Let's keep it simple. Send around the new text. Okay? [Agreement, no objections.]

Briar: Do we have a connection to the SoHo-NoHo Coalition? Could they attend a meeting to tell us about their work and we can have a relationship with them.

rob: I can contact Pete Davies and Sean Sweeney.

Briar: Fran and I presented at the The Grand Street Democrats about the lawsuit and the CWG plan. I'd like to invite them since they seem to be interested. A report from the furman center showed a lot of gentrification in our neighborhood. Let's send it with our next meeting notice. We should inspire a sense of urgency.

Meeting adjourned, 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
rob, CWG Sec'y