

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

**Voting members present:** Art Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Zishun Ning); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Steph Kranes, Briar Winters, Kai Wen Yang); Youth Against Displacement (Caitlin Kelmar).

**Also present:** Michael Cohen (Citygroup); Violette de la Selle (Citygroup); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Michael Perles (DSA); Carrie Smith (Coalition); Loan Tran (resident).

---

Meeting called to order, 6:41pm, Briar Winters (NMASS) facilitating.

December minutes approved by all present with no objections.

Agenda

MLK march and delivery of the 5000 signatures

59 Henry Street development

East River Park lawsuit

Meetings with Harvey Epstein and other electeds

Citygroup visualization

Meeting with Chris Marte

Agenda approved with no objections.

MLK Day event

Zishun Ning (CSWA): We will deliver the signatures to Corey Johnson, giving him some time to respond. We plan to contact his office to invite him to the rally.

Briar: The meeting with Johnson is being set up for next week. We've been reaching out to various organizations.

Michael Perles (DSA): We have a doodle for people to choose outreach dates.

rob hollander (LESRRD): Send the url to me and I'll send it to the CWG email list with the poster.

59 Henry Street

Violette de la Selle (Citygroup): The development will include 5-6 floors of community facility, the rest residential, 224 feet, 19 stories tall. They have begun testing to build their foundation.

Briar: The goal of our flyer should be around the CWG plan, since if the plan had been implemented, this building could not be built.

### Visualization

Violette: [Presents several renderings of what 59 Henry will likely look compared with what it would might look like if the CWG plan had been implemented with a rendering of 8 floors of affordable housing and another of a hospital community facility use.] Would this be effective?

rob: Could it look more contextual -- red brick for example?

Caitlin Kelmar (YAD): Other options, like a garden?

Francisco Benitez (CLAAD): Good to show what is imaginable within those limits.

Violette: Should it be a pamphlet?

Michael Cohen (Citygroup): It makes more sense to visualize the site maxed out since that is what any developer will build. It would be disingenuous to pretend that it would be a two story building.

Caitlin: Also storefronts to show the opportunities for small businesses and jobs.

Michael C: But is it disingenuous to show a garden, when the CWG plan would not lead to a garden. We could envision every possible use, but from my perspective the power of this exercise is to show what would be there without the plan and with the plan there'd still be something built but it would be contextual.

rob: Remember also that the developer is building these 19 stories because of the current zoning. If they could only build 8 stories, this development would probably not be happening at all, and then a community garden begins to look more possible. So while the visualization should certainly be honest, maybe you could add an addendum with the other options, saying "If the limitations in our plan drove developers away, here's what might happen."

Briar: And it's important to bring climate into the presentation.

Fran: It should be clear to the viewer that this is not what is actually going to be built, so there's no confusion.

Violette: Also a rendering of One Manhattan Plaza and what it would look without it.

Caitlin: It would be useful to have images of the towers from many different street perspectives including some closer to the buildings from the street. Currently the images are all from the river.

Briar: Getting back to 59 Henry Street, shouldn't the people organizing around it should meet? I can revive the email thread.

rob: Could I be on it?

Catlin: Our tower fold-out might need updating on demographics.

rob: The fold-out should have a single large image easy to comprehend.

#### East River Park lawsuit

Briar: Charles from LUNGS wants us to sign on to the park alienation lawsuit, but didn't we decide that CWG should not sign on since our plan doesn't cover the park, but our member organizations could sign on individually.

rob: I'll relay that information to Charles tonight.

Briar: Should we vote on this?

rob: If they really need us to sign on, they can come to us and present their case.

#### Meeting with Harvey Epstein

Briar: Should we put more pressure on Harvey since it is an election year. Set up a meeting.

Michael Perles (DSA): What role can an assemblyperson play in zoning?

rob: Harvey suggested that the Assembly could open an investigation.

Caitlin: Why should we trust the Assembly any more than the City?

Zishun: At least Harvey could speak out. Could we ask Howard to set up a meeting with us and Harvey? Howard is in his distract.

Briar: Do we have the time and resources for such a meeting, if it's not a priority?

rob: I'll talk to Harvey next I see him.

#### Chris Marte

Zishun: Let's have a meeting with him, ask him where he stands and ask him to push the plan. We can invite other CWG organizations and see if they want to reconnect with us.

Steph Kranes (NMASS): Are we allowed to endorse?

rob: We are not a non profit, so we can endorse if we choose.

[Zishun will coordinate the meeting with Chris Marte.]

Meeting adjourned, 7:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
rob hollander  
CWG Secretary