

2020 DRAFT Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
February 3, 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).

Also present: Andrew Hiller (Democratic Socialists of America); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Fannie Ip (East River Park Action); Grace Lee (Children First); Joshua Murillo (Resident); Loan Tran (resident).

Meeting called to order, 6:40 pm, Francisca Benitez (AAD) facilitating.

AGENDA

Approval of the January minutes
East River Park update
Two Bridges update
Spring town hall
Updating the plan
Candidate meeting
Citygroup visualization schedule

MINUTES

January minutes approved by all present with one minor change (replace “CLAAD” with “AAD”)

EAST RIVER PARK

Fannie Ip (ERPA): There will be a press conference Thursday at 12:30. Press release coming. The law suit will not stop the city’s plan but it will delay it. Meanwhile, the community can obtain concessions from the city. Interim flood protection can suffice for a long time, and the city will not lose the Federal funds as long as the city spends some of those funds by 2022. I’ll send you the press release.

TWO BRIDGES

Steph Kranes (NMASS): We delivered 5,000 signatures on our petition to de Blasio, Corey Johnson and Margaret Chin. To broaden the issue from the LES to the city, we chose not to target Chin but Johnson. The goal was also to mobilize the community towards passing the CWG plan.

Fannie: Mark Levine is holding an event. I'll send you the information. We also asked Stringer, who's running for mayor about the East River and he asked us to meet with him about it.

Fran: We gave Johnson a month to respond.

Briar Winters (NMASS): We're considering a Valentine's Day video event.

SPRING TOWN HALL

Zishun Ning (CSWA): We haven't finalized the time and place, probably around mid April in one of the highschoools. The Coalition to Protect Chinatown and the Lower East Side is coordinating the event. We will finalize soon.

UPDATING THE PLAN

rob hollander (LESRRD): I will look through the plan to see which demographic details need to be updated and I will distribute those.

CANDIDATE MEETING

Fannie: From our corner, we enthusiastically support Chris Marte.

Fran: The Coalition/CWG held a meeting with Chris Marte to hear his positions. We are not a non profit, so we can endorse a candidate if we decide to. We should place this on the agenda.

Andrew Hiller (DSA): Does CWG have bylaws?

rob: Yes. We also have a parliamentarian who maintains our process.

Briar: De Blasio is considering developing into the river. Shouldn't we be proactive by extending our plan to include such potential developments?

Andrew: How would that be legitimized?

Briar: It would require public workshops to get community feedback.

Fran: We shouldn't go back to the drawing board with the plan.

Briar: I think we haven't thought enough about how to update the plan.

VISUALIZATION SCHEDULE

Steph: Citygroup couldn't attend tonight but asked me to update you on the visualization they are planning for the town hall. They say they'll have rough drafts of the images on

March 2 so we can review them. They'll prepare final images for the April 6 CWG meeting and have the materials available for printing/presenting by April 13.

Meeting adjourned, 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

rob hollander

CWG Secretary