

DRAFT Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
October 7, 2019, 6:30pm, 275 Cherry Street Community Room

Voting members present: Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Vincent Cao, Zishun Ning); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Briar Winters).

Also present: Michael Cohen (Citygroup); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Sofia Quintanar; Shelly Silver (Catherine Street resident).

Meeting called to order, 6:47pm, Briar Winters (NMASS) facilitating.

SEPTEMBER MINUTES approved by all present.

AGENDA:

- Go Broome
- Events update
- East River Park

Agenda approved by all present.

GO BROOME

Briar: The Chinese Planning Council applied for a high density commercial rezoning designation where the synagogue was destroyed. If approved, it will set a dangerous precedent for future development. The lots are not included in the CWG plan, but they are part of SPURA. CB3 approved their application. Should we get in touch with Pam to join with their opposition or ask her group to join CWG?

Zishun Ning (CSWA): Ask them what they are planning to do.

Briar: I can follow up on that.

UPDATES ON EVENTS

rob: I attended the East River Park Action meeting to present and asked them to join us. We should contact them again to follow up.

Briar: Howard asked us to write to Harvey over the conflict of interest of the “independent” consultant hired by the Borough President to review the city’s plan. We can mention our plan. We may be able to meet with Harvey since he is running again. Howard wants us to sign on to his letter and send it to Harvey. Should we send our own letter?

rob: Add our own introduction to the letter expressing our concerns and send it to him.

Zishun: Let’s see if Howard is willing to go with us to meet Harvey.

We’ll talk to Howard about the letter and about holding a meeting with Harvey.

All agreed.

UPCOMING ULURP EVENT

Briar: The event will be held Oct. 30 at 6:30. There will be speakers from Inwood and Sunset Park along with Sam Stein. Mike Perles from DSA will be moderator. It will be an educational event.

Zishun: Some people in the community have the impression that the ULURP is a victory and that the towers have been stopped by it. Our petition is a way to educate and engage them. The city views ULURP as the end goal, a tool to approve the towers. Chin looks like she's fighting but it's the same goal as the mayor.

NEW BUSINESS

Shelly Silver (Catherine Street resident) resident): Chinatown murders of homeless relates to development, gentrification and the flaws of the current affordable housing model. It is an opportunity to make noise on this and come together since it is a city-wide problem.

Briar: Should we issue a statement?

Shelly: The vigil this morning was just for the news. Not for the community.

Zishun: Would be faster to coordinate with individual groups.

Briar: If CWG is supposed to have a solution we should say something.

Zishun: Let's go back to our groups. It would be faster for a member group to draft a letter.

rob: It could be addressed to electeds calling for change, sent to the local news. Who is willing to draft a letter?

rob will email Shelly, Sofia and Catlin to coordinate a draft.

Michael Cohen (Citygroup): We did not get the grant, but still want to work on the imaging project visualizing the neighborhood with the towers.

Briar: Let us know when you meet so we can participate.

Meeting adjourned, 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

rob hollander, CWG Secretary