

DRAFT Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
July 6, 2020, 6:30pm, by Zoom

Voting members present: Artists against Displacement (Fran Benitez); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Zishun Ning); National Mobilization against Sweatshops (Steph Kranes, Briar Winters); Sixth Street Community Center (Jen Chantrtanapichate).

Also present: Michael Cohen (Citygroup); Violette de la Salle (Citygroup); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Richard Moses (Lower East Side Preservation Initiative).

Meeting called to order, 6:35pm, Zishun Ning (CSWA) facilitating.

AGENDA

Visualization

70 Mulberry Street

Vacancy tax

All present approve without objection

June draft minutes approved by all present without objection.

Zishun describes the Coalition email supporting the plan and Chris' candidacy. Also tabling, phone banking and fundraising.

Fran Benitez (AAD) describes the upcoming AAD zoom meeting.

Visualization

Michael: We're looking for two visualizations for each of the seven special districts in the plan plus the two recommended areas. We'll share them with you.

70 Mulberry Street

Richard Moses (LESPI): The mayor has given \$80mil for the restitution of the building, but it's not clear what he means by "restitution" -- how much preserved, how much demolished. We'd like to have a preservationist on the community committee. We'd also like the current demolition stopped. We had a demonstration in front of the building. Could CWG send a letter to Chin? Could CWG renew its commitment to preservation?

rob hollander (LESRRD): Weren't we going to meet with you, Chris and property owners?

Zishun: Is LESPI interested in joining CWG?

Richard: I will bring it to the Board.

Vacancy tax

Fran: There are so many vacancies, not just storefronts but also upper floor lofts.

rob: A vacancy tax is unlikely now when landlords are asking for relief since renters are leaving the city.

Fran: What about a plan for the city to subsidize the homeless in vacant apartments?

rob: Like what de Blasio does now? Expanding that might succeed. Give the homeless themselves the vouchers and let them choose the neighborhood they want to live in. We should contact homeless organizations.

Steph: Propose a bill that Chris could take up?

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted

rob hollander, CWG Secretary