

DRAFT Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
May 4, 2020, 6:30pm, by Zoom

Voting members present: Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Zishun Ning); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Steph Kranes); Youth Against Displacement (Caitlin Kelmar).

Also present: Michael Cohen (Citygroup); Andrew Hiller (Democratic Socialists of America); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Richard Moses (Lower East Side Preservation Initiative); Susan Yung (artist).

Meeting called to order, 6:35pm, Caitlin Kelmar (YAD) facilitating.

OPEN AGENDA

RECONNECT WITH PRATT

Since Vanessa proposed this and is not present, we tabled the discussion.

UPDATES

Andrew described the rent strike with over 50 buildings, two car caravans, one in Albany one in the city, and the pledge to not pay rent with 12,000 signatures. Lower Manhattan Housing Committee of DSA (LOMAN) is trying to pressure Brian Kavanaugh to do more for tenants. They are looking for more tenants in his neighborhood to join their effort.

Caitlin described DSA's city-wide housing conversations including community-based zonings as part of a questionnaire for candidates in the upcoming election. CWG's Plan will be part of it.

Zishun suggests that those conversations should include community control over the re-opening. Land use should also be discussed since real estate will likely be bailed out.

VISUALIZATION

Michael Cohen explains that some members of Citygroup have shared visualization drafts but because of the quarantining and the cancellation of the town hall, the submissions deadline has been relaxed.

70 MULBERRY STREET

Richard Moses asks CWG to support the preservation of the building at the upcoming CB3 committee meeting. The Lower East Side Preservation Initiative wants to see the façade preserved and the building returned to community use.

Caitlin suggests that if the building is within the CWG Special District, then CWG could sign on to a statement of support especially to oppose any taller development that might lead to further overdevelopment.

LESPI would also like to assist in any local Chinatown preservation efforts.

Rob will testify at CB3 on what the Plan says about the building and its zoning. He explains the current zoning and its dangers. Rob and Richard will meet to discuss how to proceed.

Susan offers the excess computers. Zishun and Susan will talk.

Meeting adjourned, 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,
rob hollander, sec'y