

**Minutes of the Chinatown Working Group (CWG) Full Group Meeting**  
**4pm to 6pm, Monday, October 3, 2011**  
**American Legion L.T. Kimlau Post 1291**

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**Voting members present:** American Legion Post 1291 (Gabe Mui); Asian American Arts Centre (Robert Lee); Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (Bethany Li); Bowery Alliance of Neighbors (Mitchell Grubler); Chinese Progressive Association (Mae Lee); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Wendy Cheung); Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (Helena Wong); Community Board 1 (Diana Switaj); Community Board 2 (Antony Wong); Community Board 3 (John Leo); Immigrant Social Services (Lillian Moy); M'Finda Kalunga Community Garden (Kathleen Webster); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Michael Lalan); 197 Madison Street Tenants Association (Fu Ko Poon); 61 Delancey Street Tenants Association (Zhi Qin Zheng); Two Bridges Neighborhood Council (Victor Papa).

**Also present:** Jason Chen (Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence); Sophie DeBenedetto (National Mobilization Against Sweatshops); Rob Hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Liang Qin Jiang (11 Allen Street Association); Zella Jones (NoHo Manhattan); Charles Lai (Chinatown History Project); Wilson Soo (Two Bridges Neighborhood Council); Ytchen Tu (World Journal); Billie Zhu (Chinatown Tenants Union).

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Meeting called to order, 4:24pm, Mae Lee and Antony Wong facilitating.

## **Introductions**

### **1. Agenda approval**

K asks to move up the Education report because she cannot stay long.

Consensus: Agenda approved with the Education report moved ahead of CAPZ

### **2. Approval of the September 12 minutes**

Mae allows 2 minutes for all to review the document

John Leo moves to approve the minutes; Zella seconds

Vote: 13 yea; none opposed; 2 abstain (Victor had not been present at the September meeting; Mitchell did not have sufficient time to review the entire minutes)

### **3. Coordinating Committee report: Mae presents**

The new Coordinating Committee (CC), created under the new CWG structure, met for the first time September 21. The CC will remain open to the public. Its meetings will be announced on the CWG website, and its final, CC-approved minutes will also be posted on the website. CC meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of every month, 4pm-5:30pm at Community Board 1 49-51 Chambers Street, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, room 715. All are welcome.

The CC proposed the current agenda including all its items for CWG consideration and/or vote. See below.

#### **4. Work Team reports and discussion**

##### **a. Education/Schools/Immigration Services/Parks/Open Spaces Action Plan – strategy/next steps:** K presents the strategy (see addendum attached)

Zella suggests that the strategy focus on specific structural or budget allocations; obtain written give back requirements for any initiatives for example, from developers. She questions the viability of requests targeted beyond city agencies (e.g., testing).

K points out that the community has spoken broadly and vigorously in favor of these items, which are crucial to the success of Chinatown's educational future.

Rob feels the teams have consolidated their work and are ready to contact the agencies and elected officials.

Mae proposes to add to the strategy that the teams shall go to all three Community Boards to gain their support and find CB means to promote the goals and insert them into their work. Zella suggests that the team plans should be distributed to the CB's relevant committees as well.

Mitchell points out that give-backs from developers usually include incentives in the form of greater market-rate bulk. Cites the 76-story Gehry building, which obtained its bulk by accepting a school and a hospital extension.

Mae & K ask Zella for CB resolutions that include school, senior center mandates in large-scale development

Mae presents the Parks/Open Spaces report (see addendum attached). Suggests that the BID might be asked to help with the rat & sanitation problems in Columbus Park.

John points out that the BID includes only the sidewalks surrounding the park, not its interior.

Zella adds that the Health Department, which deals with vermin control, should be consulted along with the Sanitation Department.

John adds that CBs hold workshops on rat control and prevention; they also monitor the rat index on their websites.

##### **b. CAPZ:** Victor presents

CAPZ will meet Thursday, October 6, 4pm-5:30pm at Community Board 1, 49-51 Chambers Street, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, room 715 to review the Coalition plan and the Two Bridges framework, their differences and common ground, and possibly resolve the differences, with the intent of bringing to CWG a single plan, if possible, or if not possible, two plans for CWG to consider.

#### **5. Deadlines:** Mae presents

In order to move CWG's work forward, while still allowing membership organizations time to review and approve the remaining Action Plans, the coordinating Committee recommended three team deadlines:

November 1 for the RFP for the consultant

December 1 for the CAPZ Action Plan

December 1 for the Economic Development and Revitalization Action Plan

Rob points out that if the RFP is about to be prioritized at a CAPZ meeting in October, the RFP will not be prepared for a vote in November.

Victor moves an RFP and a CAPZ plan deadline for December 1. John Leo seconds.  
Vote: 15 yea, none opposed. Approved unanimously.

## **6. Recruit volunteers to complete the Economic Development and Revitalization (EDR)**

Zella points out that none of the members of the EDR has endorsed the Preliminary Action Plan and none of those members is in attendance.

Victor says that the Plan should be completed with the means we currently have. The planner will tweak it as necessary.

Rob reminds that the completed Plan will still require CWG approval.

Bethany wonders why this plan should be pursued if there is no support for it.

John recommends that Lin Sing and CCBA be approached for participation.

Bethany recommends that the new Tax Payers Association be approached

Zella, Victor and Bethany all recommend that an economic plan be incorporated in CAPZ.

Victor suggests that CAPZ should discuss how to insert an economic plan into the CAPZ plan.

Michael Lalan reminds that CAPZ has a full plate.

Victor suggests that the next CAPZ will merely discuss how to deal with an economic plan

Victor moves a January 1 deadline for an Economic Plan

Charles Lai objects that deadlines should promote activity. Delaying a deadline defeats its purpose.

Vote: 11 yea, 4 abstentions. Motion fails.

(A clarification ensues. Mae explains that a motion passes with the support of a simple majority of the members present, but not fewer than 15 votes in favor. There is no quorum requirement for a vote. Since the above vote did not attain 15 members in favor, it failed.)

Consensus: CAPZ will discuss how to deal with an economic component

## **7. Coordinating Committee requests**

**a. Coordinating Committee proposal to hold a public session at their meetings:** Rob presented

The CWG has heretofore been a public, open process. In case controversial issues bring a large public contingent to a CC meeting, the CC members considered the possibility of a public session which could close in order to allow the business of the CC to move forward uninterrupted.

Helen asks whether the public session would be limited in time or manner.

Rob replies that the CC left time and manner to their own discretion – they made no stipulations.

Michael Lalan suggests that the members might want to review the policy before voting on it.

John, Victor and Rob all agree that a postponement of the proposal will allow for the members to review it and for the CC to consider details of time and manner for a public session.

Consensus: postpone the proposal.

**b. Distributing draft minutes and notices:** Rob presents

The secretary requested to distribute the draft minutes to all members shortly after meetings in order to inform members not present, clarify meetings for the present members, and give members a sense of momentum. However, the e-mail list is not divided into members and non members.

Zella recommends that the draft minutes should be sent only to the members present at the respective meeting.

Consensus: the secretary will distribute draft minutes to the members who are present for their review.

8. Community Announcements

Wilson announces that Two Bridges will hold the Third Annual Marco Polo Day, October 15, 2011, 12noon to 4pm on Hester Street between Mott and Mulberry Streets.

8. Victor moves to adjourn.

Consensus: meeting adjourns, 5:50pm.

**Addendum**

**Please see attached:**

**"October 3, 2011, Chinatown Working Group Implementation Task Force Education/Schools, Parks/Open Space, Immigrant Affairs/Social Services Workteams."**

Meeting at a glance:

1. We heard reports from the Education/Schools//Parks/Open Spaces/Immigrant Services team and the CAPZ team.
2. We voted to impose a Dec. 1 deadline on the CAPZ plan and the RFP for the consultant.
3. CAPZ will insert an economic component in its plan.
4. We will all consider the idea of allowing the Coordinating Committee to limit public participation by creating a limited public session.
5. The Secretary will distribute draft minutes to the members for review and revision.