

**Culture, Affordability, Preservation, Zoning Working Team  
Chinatown Working Group  
Tuesday, November 10, 2009**

**Meeting Minutes**

Location: 49 Chambers Street, Room 709

Time: 11:00am to 12:30pm

In Attendance: (I apologize but at the moment, cannot locate the sign-in sheet from the meeting. If you have it in your possession, please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you. ~EE)

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**Review of CWG Milestones/Timetable**

New schedule: Town Hall meeting now in January. Will incorporate feedback in February.

*\*\*\*addendum 11/18/09: Steering Committee Decision on 11/12 to move Town Hall to Feb.*

*Town Hall now scheduled for Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> from 6-8pm.*

**Suggestions for Funding and Resources**

CWG Goal: \$120,000 -200,000 for hiring someone to conduct environmental survey. Figure based off of costs for previously adopted 197-a plans in the city. See Appendix I for suggested studies which need to be conducted.

Suggestions for sources of funding: foundations, Borough President's office (discretionary fund), Real Estate Institute at Baruch College, Margaret Chin (council member picking up from where predecessor left off)

CWG Funding / Finance meeting to take place on 11/12 to discuss these matters further.

**CAPZ PAP Review**

Proposal for new structure to the overall CWG PAP: (split into three sections)

I. Executive Summary

II. Introduction

III. CWG PAPs

**Affordability**

Need to add potential ally agencies to Affordability PAP. If any one has suggestions, please email them to the CWG Intern at [elisa.espiritu@gmail.com](mailto:elisa.espiritu@gmail.com). Elisa will pass on these suggestions to Richard Lee, who chairs the Affordability Working Team.

Regarding the creation of / proposing new affordable housing programs in the PAP: proposal/suggestion to have initial meeting with someone at the Urban Investment Fund regarding the possibility of creation of new affordable housing programs.

## Culture and Preservation

### *Page 4, Item B:*

-Is there a way to incorporate other pieces of the historic fabric of the area?

-Do we need to mention Little Italy?

Suggestion: we need to include them because we will need their support / vision when discussing the future of Chinatown

-Other districts to consider: Cast Iron District

## Zoning

### 1) PAP:

-We need to designate implementation responsibilities to specific agencies

-Do we or don't we include the map? (see conversation notes below) Even if we say "draft" or "proposed boundaries"

### 2) Reference materials distributed (see Appendix II)

-What are the zoning changes that need to happen for Chinatown?

-Need to define the boundaries

-Proposal for special zoning

-The group was reminded that one matter that needs to be discussed is whether or not there will be limitations on development

-Proposal for the Zoning map to be less specific at this stage. We don't want to be too specific upfront, especially considering we still need to hear from the public / community.

### 3) We need to also consider how our proposals affect other communities

-Must consider Little Italy special district. How would zoning changes affect the area? From a planning perspective, it makes sense but politically zoning proposals are different to propose changes.

-Suggested that we may want to look at Little Italy zoning / development in San Diego as a model to consider: visible gateway into community

-Two visible gateways in the area that already exist: Canal and Mott, Canal and Mulberry

## **Appendix I**

### **List of Technical Studies Potentially Required for Chinatown 197-a Plan (compiled by Doug Woodward)**

- Land Use Existing Conditions
- Zoning – Existing and Proposed
- Community Facilities
- Open Space
- Landmarks and Historical Resources
- Urban Design and Visual Resources
- Transportation
  - Traffic and Parking
  - Transit and Pedestrians
- Socioeconomic Data Collection and Analysis
- Immigration Services
- Economic Development
- Environmental Protection / Sustainability
- Housing

**Appendix II** Map by Doug Woodward



- Canal Street Development Corridor
- Preservation Core
- Chinatown Special District

**Potential Chinatown Special District**  
*Chinatown Working Group*  
*Culture, Affordability, Preservation & Zoning Team*