

DRAFT MINUTES

Full CWG Meeting September 12, 2011

Meeting begins at 5:45pm, at the American Legion, 191-193 Canal Street, 2nd Floor, Manhattan, Mae Lee and Antony Wong facilitating.

Members present (voting members asterisked*): *Wellington Chen (Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation); *Thea Goodman (Hamilton-Madison House); *Mitchell Grubler (Bowery Alliance of Neighbors); *Michael Lalan (National Mobilization Against Sweatshops); *Tim Laughlin (Lower East Side Business Improvement District); Gigi Lee (Community Board 3); *Gin Lee (Indochina Sino-American Community Center); *Mae Lee (Chinese Progressive Association); *Robert Lee (Asian American Arts Center); *John Leo (Community Board 3); *Michael Levine (Community Board 1); *Bethany Li (Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund); Lillian Moy (Immigrant Social Services); *Gabe Mui (American Legion); *Fu Ko Poon (197 Madison Street Tenants & Chinatown Tenants Union); Chang Sung (Chinese Staff and Workers Association); Diana Switaj (Community Board 1); Esther Wang (Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence); *K Webster (M'Finda Kalunga Community Garden); *Antony Wong (Community Board 2); *Mooi Yang (Chinese Staff and Workers Association); Deason Yu (Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence – Chinatown Tenants Union); *Zhi Qin Zheng (61 Delancey Street Tenants); *[signature illegible] (International Chinese Transportation Professionals Association).

Also present: Emily Chan (Ming Pao); Jason Chan (Chinatown Tenants Union); Rob Hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Zella Jones (NoHo Manhattan.org); Ytchen Tu (World Journal); Julie Whang (Kaimen Co.); Susan Yung; Lin Zeng (Manhattan Borough President's Office); Billie Zhu (Chinatown Tenants Union).

1. Introductions of everyone present.

2. Review of draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for planning consultants by Michael Levine. (Details of the presentation are appended at the end of the minutes)

Discussion:

Zella Jones suggests the RFP would get a better response if it were arranged by priorities, as there is so much in it. She volunteers to post the RFP online and allow for public comment and priority ratings.

Michael Lelan agrees with prioritization, adding that priorities should reflect the interests of residents.

Gigi Li suggests that within each section, items should be prioritized by those involved in the creation of the RFP.

Esther suggests that CAPZ prioritize the RFP.

Julie Huang comments that the RFP seems as if it were looking for many types of experts, and that it may be too far-reaching in what the group expects to receive in services for \$120,000. It needs to be made clear to consultants that the maximum budget is \$120,000.

-Consensus:

CAPZ will prioritize items and then bring it back to the full group in October.

Wendy Lee asked why the upcoming CAPZ meeting in September couldn't also talk about zoning proposals too. Michael Levine replied that there just wasn't enough time during the time allotted for meetings to discuss both the RFP and zoning proposals. Michael Lelan thinks both can be discussed.

Bethany Li agrees to submit a prioritization of the items in the RFP.

3. Presentation of CAPZ draft zoning proposal

No presentation [the August CAPZ meeting preparatory to this report was interrupted by an earthquake]

4. Implementation task forces to approach city agencies regarding Action Plan items (Details of the task forces' consolidated report are appended at the end of the minutes.)

Discussion:

Mae and K explain that Education & Schools; Immigrant Affairs & Social Services; and Parks & Open Space Working Teams have consolidated their plans, since various items in each of their Action Plans are related.

Michael Levine suggests that the teams should

1. set up meetings with the relevant agencies,
2. request that the agencies set up the meetings as soon as possible,
3. find out whom each agency will send to the meeting, and
4. ask who else the agencies think should be invited to those respective meetings.

Zella suggests that the teams strategize carefully and clearly prioritizing the requests.

K points out that there already are regular meetings with some of these agencies. What is needed is a political push.

Michael Levine suggests that CWG should appeal to elected officials for that purpose.

Antony Wong reported that Douglas Le from Asian Americans for Equality has agreed to be part of the Transportation, Circulation, and Safety task force since he is currently working together with the New York City Dept. of Transportation on the Chinatown

Curbside Management Study. Jerry Cheng agreed to be a part of the Transportation work team.

5. Coordinating Committee member nominations

Mae explains that the newly approved structure creates a Coordinating Committee which includes the co-Chairs and the chairs of all the work teams and several new offices:

1. an Archivist/Webmaster
2. a Fundraising Point Person
3. a Recording Secretary/Parliamentarian

The Structure also creates an administrative assistant position as well. Mae opens the floor to nominations.

A. Archivist/Webmaster

Tim Laughlin nominates Zella Jones. John Leo seconds. Zella Jones accepts.

B. Fundraising Point Person

Susan asks for a job description. Several suggest that the fundraiser point person should raise money.

Rob Hollander nominates Wellington Chen. Wellington declines.

Esther suggests that the position is premature and should be left unfilled for the moment.

Zella suggests that the point person should at least start thinking about fundraising strategy.

Rob suggests that the position should be filled by someone who has an interest in it so we should look further.

Mae agrees and suggests that we leave the position empty for now and move on to the next position.

-No nominee

C. Parliamentarian/Secretary

Bethany Li nominates Rob Hollander. He accepts. John Leo seconds.

D. Administrative Assistant

Zella points out that previous holders of this position were paid.

Rob suggests that there may be interns available.

Mae points out that interns need supervision.

-No nominee

Discussion of whether James Solomon was ever reimbursed for \$15,000 from NY State Senator Daniel Squadron's office yet. Gigi Li has been in contact with their office to no avail, as the money is still tied up in Albany.

K suggests that the chairs should contact Senator Squadron.

Zella recommends that Councilmember Margaret Chin be asked to help.

6. Select a facilitator for the next full group

Tim asks for an explanation of the rotating facilitator position.

Susan explains that the purpose is to bring in more participation.

John & Esther explain that the facilitator merely recognizes speakers and moves the agenda.

Rob explains that the purpose is not to force every member to facilitate, but to allow more flexibility and breadth. He nominates the current facilitators, Mae and Antony. John Leo seconds.

-Consensus

Mae Lee and Antony Wong will facilitate next CWG plenary.

7. Next meeting

Agreed: Next full CWG meeting will be held Monday, October 3, 2011, 4PM, at American Legion, 191-193 Canal Street, 2nd Floor, Manhattan.

Community announcements:

Mitchell Gruber discussed the landmarked building on Bowery and encouraged members to come out to the protest against un-landmarking it.

Mae asks for unanimous acclaim for the new offices.

-Consensus

Zella and Rob are unanimously acclaimed.

Meeting adjourned, 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Hollander, Secretary

Addenda

Addendum I

Changes that were made since the last time the RFP were reviewed by the full CWG:

Section II/Paragraph 6: fiscal conduit was changed from New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to the Fund for the City of New York.

Section A/Task I/Number 2/Zoning Data:

- The real estate taxes of each building in each preservation zone
- Residential rent revenues of those buildings
- Number and density of residents in each building (sensitive data must be handled discreetly)
- Income of residents and their detailed geographic distribution
- Commercial rent revenues of each building
- Length of residency
- Origin of residents and first language
- Address of landlords (outside the metropolitan area, within the metropolitan area but outside Chinatown, or within Chinatown)
- Address of commercial renters (outside the metropolitan area, within the metropolitan area but outside of Chinatown, or within Chinatown)
- Duration of commercial renters
- Locality of residents' workplaces (outside the metropolitan area, within the metropolitan area but outside of Chinatown, or within Chinatown)
- A list of new construction since 1965, categorized by use type, height, FAR, architectural material, and residential and commercial volume and density.

Section B/Task II/Number 1/Second Sentence:

[a percentage of the HUD-determined Area Median Income (AMI) that reflects the median household incomes for the local neighborhood. Definitions of affordability as a percentage of AMI will be]

Section D/Task IV/Number 1:

[continuing to prioritize the needs of local small businesses and small vendors]

[overall continue to ensure that Chinatown businesses continue to serve the existing residents of the neighborhood and remain affordable.]

Section E/Task V/Number 1/First Paragraph:

[the goal of promoting commercial stability, preservation, growth and revitalization; encouraging balanced economic growth appropriate to this low-cost and affordable neighborhood, in particular to small businesses, non-profits and culturally based enterprises; countering involuntary displacement of existing entities such as low income residents. Other goals include: protecting Chinatown and the surrounding areas' long time residential and small businesses, as well as historical structures, distinctive architecture, notable streetscapes and other characteristic elements of the community while encouraging imaginative new designs that respect the significant architecture in the neighborhood.]

Section E/Task V/Number 2:

- Research alternatives to Inclusionary Zoning, and other techniques to guarantee affordable housing and apartments (e.g. Single Room Occupancies, social service buildings).
- Determine the feasibility of zoning techniques to encourage incubator industries along the Canal Street corridor

Section F/Task VI/Number 1/Fifth Bullet:

[provide interpretation]

[Addendum I compiled by Antony Wong]

Addendum II

CWG – Implementation Task Force - Parks, Immigrant affairs/Social services, Education

City agencies identified: NYC Dept. of Parks, NYC Dept. of Education

Parks

Select a project that can be accomplished for SDR, Allen + Pike, Columbus & Seward Park

- Reclaim a building in the Park for recreational space for teens in SDR or Seward Park
- Translated signage (3 languages) in all Chinatown parks
- Ensure there is a community process for the comfort station building at Allen + Delancey
- Columbus Park – maintenance around the park/rat control (CPLDC?)
 - Can we push the BID to work more in Columbus Park?
 - Can we push for cleaner bathrooms?

Education/Immigrant Affairs

- 1) Have a clear, workable, timely and significant process for community involvement in any proposals to "co-locate" schools (or proposals to remove currently functioning schools).
- 2) Protect and fund places of learning in the community (day care centers, senior centers, schools) from forced removal or degradation.
- 3) Facilitate meetings for the principals of public schools in the Chinatown Area (to share strategies, resources etc. especially in these "lean" times).
- 4) Insure class sizes that allow for learning.
- 5) Fund Parent Resource Center(s) for the Chinatown Area to insure parents and families have reliable, accessible and independent "help" sites housed in their own communities. The purpose: to assist parents with the challenges of parenting school age children, coordinate resources parents need to be full partners in their child's education and to engage parents through CBO's who already have the relationships and the language skills needed to be truly accessible.

[Addendum II compiled by Mae Lee]