

## DRAFT MINUTES

Economic Team  
convened by CWG acting chairs, Gigi Li and Mae Lee  
November 22, 6pm, 49-51 Chambers St. rm 501  
Draft minutes

Present: David Louie, Gigi Li, Jan Lee, Mae Lee, Matt Viggiano, Michael Levine, Rob Hollander, Shane Yamane, Zella Jones

### Summary actions:

1. The Economic Team and Transportation Team are not entirely separate, but are now working at different rates.
2. Gigi & Mae will steward the Team until after CWG governance has been settled.
3. The Team will find out what happened to the \$1.9 mil CPLDC wayfinding/heritage trail grant money and what's happening to the BP's \$1.9 mil.
4. The Team will look for funding for research, including Two Bridges.
5. Look into Kim Lau abuse by skateboarders & bikers.
6. Find out the sidewalk regulations south of Canal Street.
7. Get CB3 to attend to curb cuts.
8. Suggestions to the PAP:
  - i. Strike the restrictions on signage. Encourage commercial signage creativity and variety.
  - ii. Strike the focus on Chinatown's image (dirty streets)
  - iii. Strike mandating credit cards, English, politeness
  - iv. Be specific about building deficiencies.
9. Have an agenda for the next meeting to attract interest.

### Minutes proper:

A.

*Jan:* Are Econ and Trans teams separated?

*Zella:* Not separated, but since June, the Econ Team hasn't been able to interest people for a meeting.

*Gigi & Mae:* The two teams are moving at different rates. Holding a meeting may stimulate interest.

B.

*Rob:* Is there a labor presence on the Econ Team?

*Zella:* The Hotel Association.

*Mae & Gigi:* The Hotel Workers include workers and small management.

*Zella:* We hoped to get medical workers to come.

C.

*Gigi:* Should we present PAPs to organizations in the community?

*Zella:* Zella offered through CPLDC, which invited CCBA and Fukeinese Workers Assoc but got no response.

*Jan:* The PAP is not ready for presentation. Businesses have changed in the meantime. Citations in the PAP are out of date. Many citations are related to 2001 that need to be updated.

D.

*Michael:* Aren't we going to address Econ leadership?

*Gigi:* The other teams are keeping their current leadership until January.

*Jan:* Is Wellington still chair or participating any longer?

*Gigi:* That is a question.

*Rob:* Wasn't this meeting convened by Gigi & Mae, not the chairs?

*Gigi:* Yes. Wellington has obligations, and questions the usefulness of the meeting.

*Rob:* Gigi & Mae should continue to lead the Team.

*Michael:* Until after January.

*Gigi:* Is Zella the Vice Chair?

*Zella:* My Vice Chair role is secretary: producing documents, getting support for them, communicating, and getting Danny and Wellington to sign off on changes to those documents.

E.

*Rob:* Can we look at possible actions?

*Michael:* Many actions depend on CAPZ.

*Zella:* (Details the complexities of signs and wayfinding and agencies.)

*Jan:* Chinatown Partnership had a 1.9 mil grant for wayfinding and heritage trail, but CPLDC did not produce the wayfinding or trail. The BP is withholding another \$1.9 mil. Asking for funding for wayfinding and Heritage trail may be redundant since CPLDC has already received \$1.9 mil. We should ask it directly of CPLDC.

*Rob:* Use the Econ Team meeting to identify issues of training and manufacturing that require response from other teams, especially CAPZ. Econ shouldn't do the Zoning team's work, but advise the Zoning team of its zoning needs.

*Michael:* The Zoning Team is currently not advocating development, but only affordable housing and preservation.

*Rob:* That's why Rob asked for this meeting -- to create a response to the Zoning Team's proposals. The next step should be to bring Economic consensus on manufacturing and training to the Zoning Team. Use Two Bridges resources for research.

F.

*Jan:* Here's a possible immediate action to show CWG progress. Kim Lau Square is being abused by skateboarders and trick bicyclists. Getting the city to redesign it would be timely.

All agree.

G.

*Jan:* Before suggesting wider streets, figure out how to get enforcement of sidewalk use.

*Zella:* Enforcement requires many different agencies' jurisdictions. And there are no statutes regulating sidewalks south of Canal Street.

*Gigi:* Why?

*Zella:* I can't say why. But there are no statutes on sidewalks south of Canal Street.

*Gigi:* Let's find out the law.

*Jan:* The neighborhood can police the sidewalks without a BID.

H.

*Jan:* Encourage store signage variety and creativity. Strike the restriction on signage.

I.

*Jeanie:* The PAP focus on dirty streets ("Chinatown's image") misrepresents the economic problem in Chinatown. Chinatown was booming before 9/11 and before clean streets were raised. Street closings, traffic redirection and permit placard abuse have harmed Chinatown. Rather than focus on gentrification measures that will irrevocably transform Chinatown, focus on the consequences of 9/11 and real issues.

J.

*Shane:* Why is rudeness mentioned?

*David:* Mandating credit cards adds to prices. Cash keeps prices down.

*Rob:* Mandating English is unnecessary. Businesses that need English will seek English without mandate.

K.

*Jan:* The PAP should be formatted consistently with the other team PAPs.

L.

*Jeanie:* Ask Susan Stetzer about curb cuts for wheelchairs.

M.

*Rob:* Deficiencies in the building stock is too general -- opens the door to big box stores which should be prevented.

O.

*Jan:* Have an agenda for the next meeting. It will help attract participation.

P.

Adjourned 8:30pm

Submitted by Rob Hollander from a digital recording