

DRAFT Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
September 10, 6:30pm, 275 Cherry Street Community Room

Voting members present: 229 Henry Street (Xin Yun Gui); 318 Restaurant Workers (Zhi Liang Chen); Art Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez, Jihye Simpkins); Chinatown and Lower East Side Artists Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Zishun Ning); Loisaida Mujeres y Hombres Luchadores (Yalanda Donato); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Francisca Benitez, Steph Kranes, Briar Winters); Youth Against Displacement (Caitlin Kelmar, Steph Kranes, Zishun Ning, Jihye Simpkins).

Also present: Andrew Hiller (New York City Democratic Socialists of America); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Pat Lin; Arthur Phillips (Orchard Street Block Association); Susan Yung (artist).

Meeting convened 6:45 pm, Zishun Ning (CSWA, YAD) facilitating.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Proposed agenda:

- EIS
- Outreach
- Worth Street prison proposal
- Fund raising
- Human Scale

Agenda approved without objection.

AUGUST MINUTES approved with no objections.

EIS & OUTREACH

Zishun: Any responses to the CB₃ hearing?

Caitlin Kelmar (NMASS, YAD): The CB₃ hearing was sparsely attended. Other groups did not seem to be organized. We should reach out again to GVSHP.

Briar Winters (NMASS): Only the hotel workers spoke in favor of the development.

Caitlin: We should explain to the public why the ULURP/text amendment strategy is not a good idea. Margaret sold out on NYU, so we can't trust her to fight against the towers.

Trevor says he will try anything to fight the towers. But we need momentum behind a single strategy.

rob hollander (LESRRD): If there are many strategies the administration will choose the method that serves them

Caitlin: ...and the one most favorable to make Margaret the hero.

Briar: NMASS has developed material for outreach.

Zishun: If there's a plan, CSWA will be on board. We should be more outspoken. These other groups are seeking to get something for themselves. The people need to be more clear on the issue.

Rob: We need to find out what the CB will recommend.

Steph Kranes (NMASS, YAD): We are preparing to present *Iron Triangle* at the library about Willets Point eminent domain. The mechanics united, got the councilwoman's support but she finally sold out. Week of Oct. 8th.

rob: Enid from Brooklyn might be a good speaker in opposition to de Blasio's plans.

Steph: We went to the Long Island City coalition meeting. Historian from Newton Creek Mitch Waxlin (?) agreed to find out about the violations of the clean water act. A couple of other groups -- Not One More Block -- were there. I will contact SWIM.

Briar: David Tieu will be on BAI's Morning Show.

Francisca Benitez (AAD, CLAAD, NMASS): NMASS is planning to outreach to NYCHA housing.

Briar: We're phoning everyone on our list of event attendees, with a script asking people to testify at the hearing. Also going door-to-door. We should have a head count of rsvp's.

Steph: Could you all take our business form to have your local businesses sign on. I'll send it to you all. We need translation into Chinese.

Briar: I'll start a digital event calendar that we can all add to.

Susan: Garden events are coming up.

Fran: The towers will cast a shadow over the gardens.

Briar: We can contact Charles from LUNGS.

Steph: We should have a flyer for small businesses to post in their windows.

PRISON PROPOSAL

Zishun: There will be a hearing on the proposal proposal.

Rob: What is the small businesses' opposition to the prison?

Zhi Liang Chen(318 RW) [Translated:] The prison has no benefit for Chinatown.

rob: If the marriage court remains in the area, the benefit of the prison is the correction officers who might eat and shop in Chinatown. So I don't understand why businesses object to it.

Zhi Liang [Trans:] There's only harm and no good. They are not part of the Chinatown community -- why would they eat in Chinatown?

Zishun: Why not have a community center? Why no community consultation? This is blatant disregard and disrespect. The business owners see the administration is undemocratic.

rob: It will bring the families of the prisoners. To object to them could be perceived as racist.

Xin Yun Gui (229 Henry Street TA) [Trans:] If anything happens there would be heightened security which would negatively affect the community.

Fran: A hospital would be a much better service to the community. I'd like to know how many prisoners the prison will hold.

Briar: We need to know more about the numbers. 40 stories is large.

rob: It's always good to oppose proposals because you can get something from it if the city is determined. We should come up with a list of community benefits to ask for.

Zishun: We are trying to bring people together to make these demands.

*** Caitlin, rob and Zishun will attend the town hall on the prison while Briar, Fran and Steph will attend the CB₃ meeting the same night.

HUMAN SCALE RALLY OCT. 13

Briar: We're want to get the groups to call out the mayor. [Recites the Human Scale e-flyer with its stated goals.]

Fran: Let's endorse.

rob: I don't like Human Scale because they are against all development but I welcome the goals of this rally and march as expressed.

Caitlin: Let's vote.

rob: Any objections? [None.] CWG unanimously endorses by acclaim.

FUNDRAISING

Briar: We can fundraise for LESON since CWG has no means of accepting funds. We can ask the small business DIBA network and AAD.

Zishun: Bowery tenants plan to raise funds in part for the waterfront. They also plan to devote a small percentage of their settlement for LESON.

Briar: Human Scale might also be a resource.

Caitlin: Urgency might bring more interest and money.

Steph: An online auction?

Susan: I can submit my art.

NEW BUSINESS

Rob: I'll distribute possible dates to meet with Harvey Epstein.

Arthur: We're opposing the luxury hotel plus clubs on Orchard Street. We'd like to bring more people. I'll email you with more information as it emerges.

Adjourn, 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
rob hollander, CWG Sec'y