

Minutes of the Chinatown Working Group (CWG) Full Group Meeting
5:30pm to 7pm, Monday, April 1, 2013
American Legion L.T. Kimlau Post 1291

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); Chinatown Business and Property Owners (Douglas Woodward); Chinese Progressive Association (Mae Lee); Committee Against Anti Asian Violence (Billie Zhu); Community Board 1 (Michael Levine); Community Board 2 (Edward Ma, Antony Wong); Community Board 3 (MyPhuong Chung); Create in Chinatown (Amy Chin); Indochina Sino-American Community Center (Peter Cheng); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (David Tieu); Two Bridges Neighborhood Council (Victor Papa, Wilson Soo).

Also present: Rob Hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development).

Press: Bonnie Lee, Lotus Chao (Sing Tao Daily News); [reporter] (Sinovision); Yichen Tu (World Journal).

Meeting called to order at 5:45pm, Wilson Soo and Antony Wong presiding.

1. Introductions

2. Agenda approved by all present

3. Minutes approved by all present

4. Update on discussion with the planning consultant and their schedule, Wilson Soo presenting a status report.

Wilson Soo: Pratt Center and the Collective met on March 19th to review the disbursement of funds. The next task is to review our data. On March 22 Antony and I met with Jocelyn Chait, Mercedes Narciso and Charlie Lai to discuss the timeline and scheduled meetings [see attached]. Any questions will be directed to the teams. Teams should select a representative to streamline the process in order to avoid unnecessary cost. We directed them to the CWG website material. They are reviewing everything under Task One. They've already asked for further documents. We have relayed those requests to the relevant members.

Antony Wong: On the 22nd they also asked us more about how to proceed with their project. They are planning an analysis chart to create an integrated review of the CWG Action Plans. May 6 they will be giving a full report on our recommendations to see whether they are viable and to update them and get next steps. They will come to the CWG Coordinating Committee

meeting April 16 with a status report. This will be open to the public. The co-Chairs of the working teams or representatives are expected to attend, listen and give feedback.

Bethany Li: It does not seem unreasonable for the representatives to have direct communication with the consultant.

Antony Wong: So far the co-Chairs have been dealing only with administrative matters -- proper invoices, for example. The opportunity to communicate will be the Coordinating Committee meeting. There will be two more such meetings in addition to the town halls.

Bethany Li: Shouldn't they meet with CAPZ and the Economic Team, since most of the RFP deals with CAPZ agreements and Economic proposals?

Antony Wong: We can talk about their availability. They will schedule such meetings offline so as not to waste time.

Michael Levine: We pay them for every meeting, so we might combine meetings with those two teams in one afternoon.

Douglas Woodward: How many meetings did they agree to?

Wilson Soo: Eight meetings. Three town halls: one initial, one interim, one final. In between five additional meetings.

Douglas Woodward: So we're adding a meeting.

Michael Levine: Maybe all in one afternoon, for convenience. April 16 at CB1.

Antony Wong: The preliminary report will be here at the American Legion on May 6, substituting a full meeting. There will be a town hall Monday, June 3. It can't be at American Legion, so we have to look for a space.

Victor Papa: Would CWG member organizations be willing to chip in on funding a school space?

Wilson Soo: We are reaching out to find an appropriate space.

Victor Papa: CCBA is not disability accessible.

David Tieu: Why not meet more central to the Lower East Side to maximize attendance.

Michael Levine: Minimize the cost of their presentation. No fancy multimedia. Focus on open discourse.

Victor Papa: You can use our South Street community room for nothing. (Usually \$130-\$140.) We have all the necessary equipment.

Antony Wong: We will explore. Other meetings: interim report, July 1; another town hall, Aug 5; a follow-up town hall, September 9; a final report, Nov 4. Also one or two Coordinating Committee meetings.

Victor Papa: Format is important. It must be civil discourse, an opportunity for an educational experience for those attending. If anyone gets out of control, I will close the meeting.

Antony Wong: The planners will describe the RFP and they will receive input from the community.

Michael Levine: We required in the RFP that the planner facilitate a group discussion, so it cannot be a free-for-all.

Antony Wong: The planner needs help with translation at the town hall meetings: Cantonese, Fujianese and Mandarin. Can the organizations help? Maybe CAAAV can do this? Spanish is not a problem. One of the planners, Mercedes, can handle it. Also the planner needs document translation especially for surveys.

Wilson Soo: There would be a small stipend available for it.

Antony Wong: Publicity -- every organization should participate. Flyers will be posted and a press release issued weeks in advance.

Ed Ma: Include "civil discourse" in the flyer.

Antony Wong: We will mention it at the beginning.

Michael Levine: We need to know their plans for the town hall, and they need to know that they are supplying the materials.

Victor Papa: The town halls should be confined to the documents presented. Anything else or going back to the start would be out of order.

5. Co-Chair nominations.

Antony Wong: Usually we take nominations in May then elect in June. Since we're doing the June town Hall, we might delay to July. Recall that one co-Chair must represent a Community Board, one from a community organization. Elections must achieve a quorum.

Victor: Invite the elected officials and the community boards to attend the town hall.

Michael Levine: ...to let them see our progress.

Ed Ma: ...to announce this landmark achievement of Chinatown coming to a consensus.

Michael Levine: Let's make a big splash.

Amy Chin: Send a personalized letter.

Antony Wong: We will send a letter and issue a press release.

Michael Levine: Stress that this is the first meeting at which the consultant will meet the wider community on this date; everybody is invited.

Ed Ma: Let them know that the old guard is still involved.

Amy Chin: Perhaps a carefully-placed op ed.

Antony Wong: We will issue a press release. Next month nominations. Elections July.

6. Community announcements

Mae Lee: On April 10 there is a national mobilization in DC march and rally and visits of legislators. They are cutting some of the categories of family immigration which will impact the Chinese community. 6 buses from Chinatown Manhattan and Flushing. All you have to do is get on the bus.

Rob Hollander: We are soliciting organizations to present at Ideas Chinatown and the New York Chinese Cultural Center, 6:30-8:30. All that's needed would be a 10 minute presentation or a video and stay for a panel discussion.

Antony Wong: CUNY Asian-American Asian Research Institute will hold a tour of Chinatown across the street from MOCA 10:30am-12pm, May 3.

MyPhuong Chung: Community Board 3's Transportation Committee will consider three bus permit applications on April 9. Please spread the word. The sites are 9 Chatham Square, 47 Chrystie Street and 59 Canal Street. CB3 weighs in on these sites and may negotiate stipulations

of the bus companies. Not many on the committee are from Chinatown, so it's important for local residents to appear and speak. The Department of Transportation works with us on these sites.

Robert Lee: Asian American Art Centre will hold a panel on May 3 at 6pm, 127 Elizabeth Street. It will consider the aesthetic relationship between Asia and the West.

Antony Wong: April 13, the Confucius Plaza Cherry Blossom Festival Celebration, check the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. April 14, Earth Day, 10:30-3pm at Columbus Park organized by Chinese Partnership. They are also conducting a scavenger hunt -- if you take five photos of the star/snow flake lights around Chinatown and tag them on the Chinatown Partnership Facebook or Twitter, then you are eligible for coupons. If you take ten photos, you can win an airline trip on Southwest Airlines.

Meeting adjourned, 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Hollander, Secretary

Appendix 3: Proposed Timeline (March – November 2013) REVISED 3/25/2013

MAIN TASKS	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Task I Review all CWG recommendations (6 weeks)	Mid-March Start-up Review of recommendations and initial analysis of viability	Review of recommendations and initial analysis of viability Status report to CWG Coord. Comm. (Apr 16) Prepare Prelim Report	Present Prelim Report at CWG monthly meeting (May 6)						
Task II Research and Analysis (7 months)	Mid-March start-up on select tasks	Research and analysis	Research and analysis	Prepare Interim Report on data and findings	Present Interim Report at CWG monthly meeting (July 1)	Additional research and analysis as needed	Additional research and analysis as needed	Integrate research and analysis into final report	
Task III Key Strategies for Implementation (7 months)			Targeted research and analysis based on preliminary report	Targeted research and analysis Preliminary strategies for implementation	Targeted research and analysis Preliminary strategies for implementation	Targeted research and analysis Refine strategies	Targeted research and analysis Refine strategies	Finalize strategies and prepare final report and presentation	Present strategies at CWG monthly meeting (Nov 4) Submit final report
Task IV Outreach meetings (June, August, September)			Prepare presentation materials for Town Hall meeting, including translations Conduct outreach	Town Hall meeting (June 3) Presentation of prioritized CWG recommendations and opportunity for input		Follow-up meeting #1 (Aug 5) Presentation of preliminary strategies for implementation and opportunity for input	Follow-up meeting #2 (Sept 9) Solicitation of final comments on preliminary implementation strategies		
Task IV Meetings with Appropriate Agencies as needed (May, July, October)			Agency/Topic TBD		Agency/Topic TBD			Agency/Topic TBD	