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)

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. 1st 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. 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
(complied 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