

**Parks, Open Space and Recreation Working Team
Chinatown Working Group
February 18, 2008**

Meeting Minutes

Location: 49 Chamber Street, Room 709

Time: 4:00pm – 5:30pm

In Attendance: Edward Ma (CB #2), Mae Lee (Chinese Progressive Association), Anne Frederick (Hester Street Collaborative),

In Attendance via Phone: Danny Chen (Chatham Green Association), Jim Solomon (CB #2).

Media in Attendance: Lotus Chan (Sing Tao Daily), Sally Sun (The Epoch Times)

1. Introductions

Edward Ma facilitated introductions, each attendee articulated their involvement with and interest in park, open space, and recreation issues.

The attendees articulated the importance of outreaching to more residents and organizations in order to develop principles which are representative of community-wide needs and aspirations.

ACTION: Anne Frederick volunteered to outreach to members of three local park coalitions including: the Sara D. Roosevelt Park Coalition, the United Neighbors to Revitalize Allen and Pike (UNRAP) coalition, and the O.U.R. Waterfront Alliance.

The attendees also agreed to research any relevant studies, and experts on Parks, Open Space, and Recreation in Chinatown that might inform the practical principals.

Jim Solomon also suggested that the committee work with City and State agencies to facilitate presentations from “experts” in the area of Parks, Open Space and Recreation.

ACTION: Anne Frederick will reach out to New Yorkers for Parks to research their “Open Space Index” for Chinatown.

2. Mission & Practical Principles

Edward Ma presented a preliminary draft proposal for the mission, principles, and target sites. The attendees agreed to table the adoption of practical principles until the following

meeting. Committee members are invited to review and weigh in on the preliminary draft prior to the next committee meeting. See below:

Parks, Open Space & Recreation Team - DRAFT Mission, Principles and Target Sites

The Mission Statement:

A holistic approach is to promote environmental mindfulness, and utilization of resources, by sharing, participating, volunteering, connecting and healing in order to coordinate with other seven groups for Chinatown zoning and revitalization.

Practical Principles:

1. Preserve all sizes of green space around neighborhoods for leisure, tranquility and peace of mind. **An outlet for stressful life.**
2. Foster neighborhood spirit for mutual concern and care with a sense of ownership of the park and public space. **Inspiring public mind and public interest for environmental justice.**
3. Create parks, open space for individuals to feel healed, whole and connected, as well as coherent within ourselves, in union with others, in continuity with time past and future. **Self healing and connection with others.**
4. Design a park, open space, to decrease the syndrome of lonely crowded, by enhancing interaction and intimate human relations for quality of life, such as sponsoring various exhibition and activities in art, health, sports, kinship and professional activities, etc. **Promotion of community activities, no more isolation and depression.**
5. Enable festival, recreation and art performance to tap the power of rituals to mark transition, express important values, heal the past and deepen relationships. **Community healing within our culture heritage.**
6. Advocate a large open space of 20,000 square feet for public gathering, public participation and public forum to shape up public issues and consensus via democratic process for image uplifting and mainstream accessible. **Strengthening group coherence and group identity.**

Potential Targets:

1. Chatham Square
2. Columbus Park
3. East River Water Front – create a continuous promenade from the Brooklyn Bridge to East River Park plus Pier 36 to 40.
4. Madison Park (Police Headquarter)

3. Co-chairs

It was agreed that Anne Frederick and Edward Ma would serve as acting chairs for the committee for the next meeting.

Next Parks, Open Space and Recreation Meeting:

Thursday, March 19, 4:00 – 5:30pm

Community Board 1, Room 709

49-51 Chambers Street