

Draft Minutes of the Chinatown Working Group (CWG) Full Group Meeting
5:00pm-6:00pm, Monday, April 4, 2016
AALDEF, 99 Hudson Street, 12th floor

Voting members present: 83-85 Bowery Street Tenants Association (Shu Qing Wang); 229 Henry Street Tenants Association (Xiu Yun Guo); 318 Restaurant Workers Union (Nelson Mar); Asian American Arts Centre (Robert Lee); Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (Margaret Fung); Bowery Alliance of Neighbors (Mitchell Grubler); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Wendy Cheung, Zishun Ning); Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (Naved Husain); Community Board 3 (Gigi Li); Good Old Lower East Side (James Rodriguez); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Francisca Benitez, David Tieu); New Design Justice League (Jordan Capik, Brian Mella).

Also present: Lucia Cappuccio (Hunter College); rob hollander (CWG secretary).

Meeting called to order at 5:10pm by Margaret Fung.

1. Choosing a facilitator for the meeting: David suggests rob. Rob agrees. No objections.
2. Agenda: Review the city's new zoning regulations; next steps for CWG.
3. New zoning regulations

Margaret Fung: Did member organizations take a position on the mayor's plans?

Daivid Tieu: NMASS opposed it because it will bring luxury development and community displacement.

James Rodriguez: GOLES objected primarily because the affordable component is not affordable enough.

Naved Husain: CAAAV objected for those reasons and also for its lack of accountability, disregarding local plans.

rob hollander: MIH doesn't affect Chinatown since it applies only to rezonings.

James Rodriquez: ZQA allows added heights to current zonings, including storefront ceiling heights.

Francisca Benitez: There are some differences between CWG's proposals and CB3's. CB1 requested that the AMI for subdistrict C be raised.

Gigi Li: CB3 has voted on each subdistrict. It will now compile all its plans and send a letter to DCP. The committee decided after long debate that it would leave the CB1 AMI request stand while stating that their AMI request was not what CB3 had approved or preferred, but that these would be matters of further negotiation with the city.

4. Next steps for CWG

Margaret Fung: Let's all look at the proposals CWG voted on and those that CB3 voted on so that we can see whether there are any further differences.

rob hollander: The members of CWG voted in favor of Subdistricts C and D with an overwhelming majority and without objection, however because the voting structure required 15 votes in favor and the community boards abstained, not having had time to consult first with their membership, the vote did not count technically as a

procedural approval. However, CWG asked the CB3 representative to explain to CB3 that those two favorable votes were the sense of the group despite the technical failure.

Wendy Cheung: There are three new groups applying for membership.

rob hollander: Their paperwork is complete, the group may vote to approve them now. Is there any discussion?

83-85 Bowery Tenants Association: 6 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstaining

229 Henry Street Tenants Association: 6 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstaining

New Design Justice League: 6 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstaining

David Tieu: We should endorse the votes we made on subdistricts C and D as the sense of the group so that CWG can move forward on a comprehensive plan.

Wendy Cheung: I second the motion.

rob hollander: If there is no more discussion, we may vote. 10 in favor; 0 opposed.

Zishun Ning: The tenants at 229 Henry Street and 83-85 Bowery are being sued by their landlord to evict them. We are holding a rally in front of 83-5 Bowery, April 12, 4pm.

rob hollander: CWG may vote to support their rally. 9 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstaining.

Margaret Fung: Let's continue to meet as usual. The next first Monday of the month is May 2.

GOLES: We will ask if Smith Houses can host a meeting.

Wendy Cheung: How about Seward Park Extension?

rob hollander: I will ask Trever Holland about the Two Bridges Tower space. Is 5pm a good time? [No objections.] I will distribute the CWG plan and the CB3 plans to you.

Meeting adjourned, 6:15pm.