

**DRAFT Minutes**  
**Chinatown Working Group Meeting**  
**December 4, 6:30pm, 275 Cherry Street Community Room**

**Voting members present:** Artists Against Displacement (Margaret Lee, Michelle Rosenberg); Chinatown and Lower East Side Artists Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Zishun Ning); Hombres y Mujeres Luchadores (Yolanda Donato); Land's End 2 Residents Association (Tanya Negrón); Lower East Side Organized Neighbors (Antonio QueyLin, Richard Yuen); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Francisca Benitez, Sonia DeJesus, Joanna Estevez, Madeleine Jackson, Steph Kranes, Anthonio QueyLin, Louise Velez); Youth Against Displacement (Steph Kranes, Zishun Ning); 229 Henry Street Tenants Association (Xiu Yun Cao, Jane Cheung); 83-85 Bowery Tenants Association (Shu Qin Wan).

**Also present:** Shu Kui Chen (231 Henry St.); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Vaylateena Jones (LES Power Partnership); Caitlin Kelmar; Christopher Marte (LES United Neighborhood Association); Audrey Ward (300 Cherry St.); Briar Winters (LES Dwellers).

Meeting called to order, 6:45, Tanya Negrón facilitating.

**1. Approval of the agenda**

Agenda: 1) approval of agenda; 2) approval of November minutes; 3) co-chair nominations and elections; 4) website report; 5) new business/announcements.

[No objections, agenda approved.]

**2. Approval of the November minutes.**

Rob Hollander (CWG Secretary) notes several corrections: "Laura" should be "Paula," CAAAV was mistakenly included in the roster of attendees; Jesse corrected the minutes to reflect her statement as follows: "BP's office is still considering how to write out the text amendment. As most text amendments don't trigger an EIS, they want to make sure it is true for their text amendment. The text amendment is to ensure that any development on NYCHA land needs to go through a special permit process which will require a ULURP and EIS."

[Corrected minutes approved without objection.]

**Co-chair ominations and elections**

rob: GOLES requested that bios of nominees be distributed prior to election. GOLES notified me that they would not be able to attend tonight.

Francisca Benitez (CLAAD&NMASS): It's too soon to vote today. Let's nominate today, elect at the next meeting.

Tanya Negron (Land's End 2 RA): Any objection to delaying the election until next meeting?

[No objections.]

Briar Winters (LES Dwellers): Send around a reminder to all members.

Tanya: How many members are there in CWG?

rob: Many more than attend. Should we ask if non attending members wish to leave the group, and if so ask them to give us a vote record of their decision to leave?

Tanya: Any such a letter should be sent prior to the election so no members are excluded from the process.

Jane Cheung (Henry St.): We should require members to attend, and set a deadline for nominations.

Anthony Quaylin: Requiring them to attend one third of the annual meetings would be reasonable.

rob: CWG had many members that never attended. However, their support in name added legitimacy to the group.

Jane: Let non attending members remain as supporting members but not voting members.

Tanya: Let's set this to a vote: send a letter to all members asking whether they wish to remain as voting members, which requires attending at least one third of our annual meetings, or remain as a supporting member. If they wish to leave, ask them to send us a vote record of their group's decision to leave CWG. In addition, nominations for co-chairs will remain open until January 2, one week prior to the January co-chair election meeting.

[Vote: 8 yes, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.]

Tanya: Nominations are open.

Fran: There should be at least one co-chair who has been around from the beginning of CWG.

Tanya: One new chair to represent the new membership and one old for continuity.

Audrey Ward: I nominate Fran.

Fran: I decline.

Jane: I nominate Zishun Ning.

Zishun Ning (CSWA&YAD): I accept.

Jane: I nominate Tanya.

Tanya: I decline.

Christopher Marte (LESUNA): I nominate rob.

rob: I'm not a member. The role of secretary is service only.

Audrey Ward: Who proposed circulating bios?

rob: GOLES.

Tanya: Shall we vote on whether to circulate bios?

Audrey: GOLES should be here. They have many on staff.

Tanya: They should be here for their proposal.

**LESON Presentation:** Tanya Negron, Antonio QueyLin, Zishun Ning presenting.

....[Please see handout]....

Zishun: The important difference between the LESON strategy and the Councilmember's strategy is that LESON's strategy is intended to stop the developments, the Councilmember's strategy is intended not to stop the developments but to negotiate for community givebacks from the developers, since Chin, the Borough President and the Public Advocate have all stated that the developments will be built.

Briar: Are there any campaigns to involve government agencies?

Tanya: Each neighborhood organization should join the effort and also move the CWG plan.

Antonio: Everyone should prepare for the hearing.

### **Website report**

Fran: We have downloaded all the content on the old website in case anything happens to the old website, which we do not control. Although we have copies of everything, nothing is organized. We could use help with organizing it.

We have created a gmail account for CWG: [chinatownworkinggroup2008@gmail.com](mailto:chinatownworkinggroup2008@gmail.com) and we are working on creating a Wordpress website.

Tanya: If there's no further business, the meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,  
rob hollander, CWG Sec'y