

DRAFT Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
May 7, 6:30pm, 275 Cherry Street Community Room

Voting members present: 83-85 Bowery (Shu Qing Wang); 229 Henry Street Tenants Association (Wang Chin Chuang); 318 Restaurant Workers Union (Zhi Liang Chen); Chinatown and Lower East Side Artists Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Zishun Ning); Land's End 2 Residents Association (Mercer Jabul); Lower East Side Organized Neighbors (Antonio QueyLin); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Francisca Benitez, Joanna Estevez, Madeleine Jackson, Steph Kranes, Antonio QueyLin, Briar Winters); Youth Against Displacement (Steph Kranes, Zishun Ning).

Also present: Irene Alladice (LES Power Partnership); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Vaylateena Jones (LES Power Partnership).

Meeting convened 6:45pm, Briar Winters (NMASS) facilitating.

Agenda

- Approval of April minutes
- Mission statement revision
- LESON update
- 83-85 Bowery and 229 Henry Street update
- Website update
- Library events

Agenda approved by all present.

April Minutes

April Minutes approved by all present.

Mission statement revision

rob hollander (LESRRD): I incorporated all the edits from last month.

[Reads the revised mission statement.]

Since implementation was always supposed to be part of the CWG program, I suggest that the last sentence of the revision should be changed from

Since then, our mission has expanded from plan creation to advocacy for the plan's implementation.

to

Since our planning process is complete, we continue to advocate for the plan's implementation.

Briar: Shall we vote to approve the revision with the amendment?

[Approved unanimously.]

LESON

Anthony Queylin (LESON): LESON has written an Op Ed letter. The letter was long so we're scaling it down.

Zishun Ning (CSWA, YAD): The Op Ed is in process. The letter was sent by email to DCP.

rob: Maybe it should be sent by certified mail to DCP.

Francisca Benitez (CLAAD, NMASS): Post it on the DCP website.

rob: And on our website.

Antony: We want to have a letter for local buildings associations. and other organizations.

rob: Is there a petition?

Antony: Not yet.

83-85 Bowery and 229 Henry Street

Zishun: The protests after the trashing of the tenants' belongings were successful. Appellate Court decided in favor of the Henry Street tenants. They will be going back to housing court. There will be a press conference Wednesday, 11am 207 Canal Street demanding that the landlord stop harassing tenants and place the apartments into rent stabilization.

Website

Fran: The minutes are now on the website. Thanks to Steph for her help with this.

Madeleine Jackson (NMASS): Do community groups always publish their minutes?

rob: CWG always did.

Fran: It's good to be transparent.

Library events

Madeleine: Andrew Fairweather, the senior librarian of the NYPL Seward Park Library, is open to screening *Class Divide* a documentary about the Chelsea aftermath of gentrification. We're planning for Thursday June 14, 6:30pm, 74 minutes long plus Q&A. CWG can present its plan. We could also hold an event on a Saturday all day.

Fran: with AAD we will mount a curated show on gentrification and struggles in the neighborhood. We can bring together books that NYPL has. The librarian is ordering related books including Peter Kwong's.

Madeleine: The library can post a video on their site. We can hold a panel.

Mercer Jabul (Lands End 2 Residents Association): Include discussion groups with the show to help explain its significance. The library already has held community discussion groups. The intimacy of a small group can work well.

Fran: Jane's Walks also attract community interest in the neighborhood.

Madeleine: We can educate and involve local young people.

Mercer: The library is community-friendly. We should use it as much as we can. We could have a presence over the summer -- more than just a show.

Mercer: We need outreach.

Madeleine: A flyer, yes.

Joanna Estevez (NMASS): Forward it to tenants associations. Invite the presidents of the associations.

Vaylateena Jones (LESPP): LESPP does outreach to various groups. We have been presenting the various plans for this area. We don't have anything definitive to explain the CWG Plan. We have been using the information on the website.

Meeting adjourned, 8:12pm
Respectfully submitted,
rob hollander, CWG sec'y