

DRAFT Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
July 2, 6:30pm, 275 Cherry Street Community Room

Voting members present: 83-85 Bowery (Huang Mei Rong, Qiu Rang Wang, Shu Qing Wang); Art Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez, Harry Burke, Caitlin Kelmar, Jihae Simpkins); Chinatown and Lower East Side Artists Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Zishun Ning); Land's End 2 Residents Association (Rasul Hafeez, Mercer Jabul); Lower East Side Organized Neighbors (Tanya Negron, Richard Yuen); Lower East Side United Neighbors Association (Caitlin Kelmar, Tanya Negron); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Francisca Benitez, Madeleine Jackson, Steph Kranes, and Briar Winters by phone); Youth Against Displacement (Caitlin Kelmar, Steph Kranes, Zishun Ning).

Also present: Andrew Fairweather (Seward Park Library); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Susan Yung (artist).

Meeting convened 6:45pm, Richard Yuen (LESON) facilitating.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Proposed agenda:

- East River 358 Alliance and Seward Coop
- Library events
- Fundraiser
- CWG growth strategy
- LESON next steps
- 83-85 Bowery update

Approval of the June minutes delayed until next meeting.

EAST RIVER 358 ALLIANCE, SEWARD COOP

--Seward Park Coops voted down an offer to sell their air rights. The members could not muster the $\frac{2}{3}$ vote necessary to approve the selling of the air rights. Do we have allies there?

--Caitlin will contact Michelle Rosenberg, a member of AAD and resident of the coop.

LIBRARY EVENTS

--60 attended the Coalition screening *Class Divide* (including children). It was the largest event in the entire system of community discussions. NYPL gave the librarian a green light to move forward similar events.

--Four out of the seven NYCHA attendees left. They said they didn't like the content.

- We should invite the NYCHA leaders to the table. We need to share information.
- Proposals for next event: NYCHA, personal narrative documentaries, engage small businesses on the impact of development. Provide information on CWG and events at block parties.
- Lands End 2 plans 2 to 3 block parties in August.

FUNDRAISER

LESON will discuss the cost of an attorney on Friday and get an estimate.

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LESON NEXT STEPS

- LESON talked to an attorney who gave us direction. We should fight on the waste water treatment which will bring us allies like the Newtown Creek Alliance and the Northern Brooklyn Boat Club. Under the LSRD we have rights. The wastewater is the common interest and struggle. We need data on overflows.
- There are two CB3 Land Use Committee meetings coming up, one just for the EIS. Special meeting on the EIS: July 23 6:30 Henry Street Settlement. Also the meeting July 17, 184 Eldridge Street has an item on the EIS as well. We should attend both.

STRATEGY TO GROW SUPPORT

- We have neglected small businesses. They are concerned about rent hikes. They say “we are part of the community.” They could attend the hearing and testify about raising water costs and land value tax. They might place a sticker in their windows with our website.
- We should also tap the people who came to the film. Give them a list of actions: testifying, come to CWG.
- Can we use the LES group online complainers, 19,000 of them?
- Some of the groups in CWG are active in outreach. CWG can be a coordinating group. Let’s have someone be overseeing the efforts. There needs to be someone on top of all these efforts. We need an Outreach Committee.
- We need to email and educate immediately for the EIS hearing.
- Caitlin will bring Newton Creek groups to the hearing.
- DIBA needs to know that this is a business specific issue and we need to have literature to give to business owners.
- Jihae, rob and Madeleine will write an email for the library attendees.

Meeting adjourned 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
rob hollander, CWG Secretary