

DRAFT Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
January 8, 6:30pm, 275 Cherry Street Community Room

Voting members present: 83-85 Bowery Residents Association (Shu Qing Wang); 229 Henry Street Tenants Association (Wang Chunhuang); 318 Restaurant Workers Union (Yu Ting Feing); Artists Against Displacement (Margaret Lee, Oliver Newton, Michelle Rosenberg); Chinatown and Lower East Side Artists Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Ren Q. Yang, Zishun Ning); Committee against anti-Asian Violence (Melanie Wang); Hombres y Mujeres Luchadores (Yolanda Donato); Land's End 2 Residents Association (Mercer Jabul, Tanya Negron); Lower East Side Organized Neighbors (Antonio QueyLin, Richard Yuen); Lower East Side Unified Neighbors Association (Christopher Marte, Tanya Negron, Richard Yuen); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Francisca Benitez, Joanna Estevez, Steph Kranes, Yanin Pena, Anthonio QueyLin, Briar Winters); Youth Against Displacement (Steph Kranes, Yanin Pena, Zishun Ning; Kai Wen Yang).

Also present: Shu Kui Chen (231 Henry St.); Paul DeRienzo (videographer); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Vaylateena Jones (LES Power Partnership); Caitlin Kelmar (Groundwork); Marc Richardson (TUFFLES); Briar Winters (LES Dwellers); Susan Yung (artist).

Meeting called to order, 6:45pm, Francisca Benitez (CLAAD, NMASS) facilitating.

Approval of the agenda

Agenda: Co-chair elections; website report; new business; announcements.
No objections, agenda approved.

Approval of the December Minutes.

No corrections, no objections; December minutes approved by all present.

Co-chair Elections

Three candidates were placed in nomination by the January 2 deadline:
Christopher Marte (LESUNA); Zishun Ning (CSWA); Briar Winters (NMASS)

Zishun: I move that we have three co-chairs instead of holding an election.

Chris: I would have to rethink my candidacy.

Rob Hollander (Sec'y): We would then have to delay the election to fill a third candidate.

Zishun: I withdraw the motion.

Rob: Motion withdrawn.

Fran: Nominees may make a statement before we vote.

Chris: I'd like to see the group support other local initiatives in the neighborhood.

Zishun: I would like to see the group expand in membership. CWG has a leadership role in the community as the promoter of the entire plan.

Briar: I too would like to see the group expand and raise its profile. New member organizations should sign on to the CWG mission and strategy.

Fran: If there is no further discussion, we can vote with secret ballots. Only one member of each group may vote. Write down the names of two candidates. The two names with the most votes will be our co-chairs.

[Voting members present: 83-85 Bowery; 229 Henry Street; 318 RW; AAD; CLAAD; CSWA; CAAAV; LESHML; LESON; LESUNA; Land's End 2; NMASS; YAD]

Fran: Who volunteers to count the votes?

[Vaylateena and Richard volunteer.]

Tanya Negron (Land's End 2) moves to accept Vay and Richard as counters. Seeing no objections, Vay and Richard count the votes.

Vote results: Zishun: 13; Briar: 7; Chris: 5. (One member voted for only one name.)
Zishun and Briar are now the CWG co-chairs.

Website report

Fran: We have all the website data, but we need assistance in creating a new website and organizing it.

Chris & Caitlin: We can help.

Rob: Let's arrange a meeting soon.

New Business

Tanya: We need to consider outreach.

Vay: First consolidate your strategy so people you outreach to will understand what you are doing.

Fran: We have a plan. We need to implement it.

Zishun: LESON presented a strategy at the last meeting.

Chris: We should list all the current initiatives sponsored by local community groups.

Zishun: Let's also consider the Small Business Act. Invite the Elizabeth Street Garden to join.

Steph Kranes: I have been drafting a letter which could be posted on local windows.

Rob: In sum: next week we'll consider our strategy; review Steph's letter; present a tentative website; begin an outreach strategy.

Announcements

Paul DeRienzo invites us to be interviewed on his Manhattan Neighborhood Network show. Zishin agrees to appear.

Meeting adjourned, 7:59pm

Respectfully submitted,
rob hollander, CWG Sec'y