

DRAFT Minutes
Chinatown Working Group Meeting
February 5, 6:30pm, 275 Cherry Street Community Room

Voting members present: 83-85 Bowery Residents Association (Vincent Cao, Shu Qing Wang); 229 Henry Street Tenants Association (Xin Yun Guo); Bowery Alliance of Neighbors (David Mulkins); Chinatown and Lower East Side Artists Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Zishun Ning); Groundwork (Caitlin Kelmar, Christopher Marte); Land's End 2 Residents Association (Mercer Jabul, Tanya Negron); Lower East Side Organized Neighbors (Antonio QueyLin); Lower East Side Unified Neighbors Association (Christopher Marte, Tanya Negron); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Francisca Benitez, Madeleine Jackson, Steph Kranes, Antonio QueyLin, Briar Winters); Youth Against Displacement (Steph Kranes, Zishun Ning).

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

Meeting convened at 6:45pm, Zishun Ning facilitating.

Agenda approval

Report on 83-85 Bowery added to the agenda. The agenda is approved with no further objections.

Approval of the January minutes

No objections, the January minutes approved.

Report on 83-85 Bowery

Vincent describes the landlord's failure to improve conditions. The residents were evicted for the violations that the landlord failed to fix. The tenants were relocated. The landlord continues to delay the repairs. The residents have chosen to hold a hunger strike.

Outreach letter

Steph Kranes presented the letter and asked for edits and suggestions. She will incorporate the suggestions into the letter and distribute an edited version later in the month for us to review again before distributing it to lapsed member groups and potential new members.

The CWG EIS strategy

Tanya explains that the LESON strategy is to raise all the legally mandated environmental requirements at the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) hearing and if necessary litigate those requirements in order to stop all the projected developments. By contrast, the

ULURP strategy led by Councilmember Chin will merely require special permits for developments in the Large Scale Residential Development area, which will allow negotiations for added affordable housing. The ULURP strategy goal is not to prevent development, but to add affordable housing to the developments. The LESON strategy goal is to prevent the developments entirely, and to implement the CWG plan which will significantly scale down any future development plans. Since the councilmember and her supporters will object that the LESON strategy will not generate new affordable housing, CWG should prepare to respond with evidence and argument that development is more harmful to existing affordable housing than the benefit of new affordable (or so-called affordable) housing. We are planning a press conference for the end of February.

Chris Marte: Should we update the Plan?

Rob Hollander: I'll contact Eva.

Website

Caitlin presents the new website. Access is discussed.

Meeting adjourned, 8:28pm

Respectfully submitted,
rob hollander, CWG Sec'y