

**Minutes of the Chinatown Working Group (CWG) Full Group Meeting**  
**5:30pm – 6:30pm, Monday, March 5, 2012**  
**American Legion L.T. Kimlau Post 1291**

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**Voting members present:** American Legion Post 1291 (Gabe Mui); Asian American Arts Centre (Robert Lee); Asian Americans for Equality (Douglas Le); Bowery Alliance of Neighbors (Jean Standish); Cherry Street Tenant Association (Ricky Leung); Chinatown Partnership (Wellington Chen); Chinatown Youth Initiative (Andy Woo); Chinese Progressive Association (Mae Lee); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Wendy Cheng); Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (Jason Chan, Esther Wang, Billie Zhu); Community Board 1 (Michael Levine); Community Board 2 (Edward Ma, Antony Wong); Community Board 3 (Gigi Lee); Create in Chinatown (Amy Chin); Good Old Lower East Side (Damaris Reyes); Hamilton-Madison House (Thea Goodman); Hester Street Collaborative (Dylan House); Immigrant Social Services (Lillian Moy); Indochina Sino-American Community Center (Gin Lee); International Chinese Transportation Professionals Association (Jerry Cheng); Little Italy Merchants Association (Raffaele Tramontana); Lower East Side Business Improvement District (Tim Laughlin); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Michael Lalan); Two Bridges Neighborhood Council (Victor Papa, Wilson Soo); 61 Delancey Street Tenants Association (Zhi Qin Zheng).

**Press:** Sing Tao (Bonnie Li)

**Also present:** Rob Hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Mae Wong (218 Holding Inc.); Susan Yung (Bowery Poetry Club).

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Meeting called to order, 4:15pm, Mae Lee and Antony Wong facilitating

**1. Introductions**

**2. Agenda approval**

>>**Agenda approved by all present**

**3. February minutes approval**

>>**February minutes approved by all present**

**4. Approval of the RFP for the consultant, Michael Levine presenting**

Michael Levine: We are asking the CWG to approve the final RFP for the consultant (pending any additional requirements from the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation which is offering the \$150,000 grant for the consultant). The RFP has been approved by Community Board 3; Community Boards 1 and 2 will follow CB3's lead since nearly all of the catch area is within Community District 3. The RFP not been changed since CB3's approval, and it remains only for CWG itself to vote its approval. [See appendix 1.]

Gigi Li: The approval resolution asks that CB3 be updated regarding the broad scope of services given the limited funding, and the expansive boundaries, but it was passed at the Full Board.

Victor Papa: Motion to approve.

Gigi Li: Second.

Discussion:

Tim Laughlin: What is the process of finding a consultant and defining scope?

Michael Levine: Michael Levine, Gigi Li, Antony Wong will meet with University Settlement and LMDC tomorrow (Tuesday March 6) to discuss the administrative fee and what the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will say regarding the process including the hiring of the consultant, the billing schedule (how much University Settlement can or cannot front funds), the public process of bids, authorization for work completed.

Tim Laughlin: If University Settlement cannot lay out cash and LMDC cannot front funds, is there a plan B?

Michael Levine: There is no plan B.

Victor Papa: Does University Settlement seek a role in the process of hiring or policy?

Michael Levine: They do not appear to be interested in policy but in helping us. The MOU and the arrangement may require a vote of CWG.

Antony Wong: Call the question.

Mae Lee: Roll call on the RFP:

Yea, 22

(American Legion; Bowery Alliance of Neighbors; Cherry Street Tenant Association; Chinatown Youth Initiative; Chinese Progressive Association; Chinese Staff and Workers Association; Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence; Community Board 1; Community Board 2; Community Board 3; Create in Chinatown; Hamilton-Madison House; Immigrant Social Services; Indochina Sino-American Community Center; International Chinese Transportation Professionals Association; Little Italy Merchants Association; Lower East Side Business Improvement District; National Mobilization Against Sweatshops; Two Bridges Neighborhood Council; 61 Delancey Street Tenants Association; Chinatown Partnership; GOLES.)

Nay, 0.

Abstaining, 0.

Not voting, 0.

**>>RFP approved unanimously.**

**5. Implementation Task Force update**, Mae Lee presenting.

Mae Lee: Meetings remain to be held with State Senator Squadron and Assembly Speaker Silver, and with the Parks Department and Department of Education.

**6. Economic Development Plan**, Mae Lee presenting.

Mae Lee: Discussions continue. The current work can be viewed in the handout [see appendix 2]. The left hand column represents the draft Economic Preliminary Action Plan currently on the website; the middle column represents revisions from recent Economic Team meetings; the right column represents a proposal from the Property Tax Payers, who have been attending the Team meetings. There may be further revisions.

**7. Community Announcements**

Victor Papa: We should give some recognition to Jim Solomon for getting the CWG moving.

Ed Ma: I agree. We should share our accomplishments with him and ask his suggestions.

Mae Lee: I too agree, Victor. How should it be done?

Victor Papa: Discuss next month. Also recognize Thomas Yu.

Mae Lee: Can we follow up on the \$15,000 owed to Jim Solomon?

Michael Levine: We will include that on the agenda for tomorrow.

Rob Hollander: CWG's structure requires a fund-raising point person. No one has yet volunteered.

Damaris Reyes: I volunteer as a temporary fund raiser.

Victor Papa: I will help.

**>>Damaris Reyes will be the acting Fund Raising Point Person; Victor Papa will assist.**

Michael Levine: Keep in mind that all funds must be received through a fiscal conduit.

Antony Wong: Meeting adjourned. 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Hollander, Secretary.