

Minutes of the Chinatown Working Group (CWG) Full Group Meeting  
4pm – 5:30pm, Monday, January 7, 2013  
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); Bowery Alliance of Neighbors (Mitchell Grubler); Chinese Progressive Association (Mae Lee); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Wendy Cheung, Josephine Lee); Committee Against Anti Asian Violence (Billie Zhu); Community Board 2 (Antony Wong); Community Board 3 (Gigi Li); Immigrant Social Services (George Leung); Lower Manhattan GOP (Jimmy Cheu); Museum of Chinese in America (Ryan Wong); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Louise Velez); Two Bridges Neighborhood Council (Wilson Soo).

Press: Eddie Lau (Ming Pao); Lotus Chao, Cathy Lee (Sing Tao Daily News); YiChen Tu (World Journal).

Also present: Rob Hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Steve Maing (High Tech, Low Life); Trina Rodriguez (High Tech, Low Life).

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Meeting convened, 4:20PM, Wilson Soo and Antony Wong facilitating

1. Introductions

2. Agenda approval

>>No objections: Agenda approved

3. December 2012 Minutes approval

>>No objections: Minutes approved by all present

4. Update on the RFP for a consultant: the posting and timeline, Antony Wong presenting

Antony Wong: The RFP announcement will be posted within the next week on the University Settlement website with a link to our website. As soon as it is posted on the University Settlement, it will be posted on LMDC's site and the American Planning Association website. Then we'll have three to four weeks to solicit applications. We plan the pre-bid meeting to coincide with the next CWG full group meeting February 4th. The applicants will ask us questions. Proposals are due the next week, February 11 by mail or hand by 5pm EST. Then the review panel will meet before March 15 to read and evaluate them. We hope that the panel will

meet before the March full group meeting so the full group can vote on the candidates then. If necessary, we may delay the March full group meeting by one week to accommodate the panel. Between April and November we will hold two or three town hall meetings here to update and get feedback from the community.

Gigi Lee: It behooves us to get as many points of contact as possible, so we should all post to our websites and email contact lists.

Antony Wong: When it is posted on USSNY we will send you all an e-blast. Then you may send it out to your contacts.

Mae Lee: Can the applicants talk to anyone before the pre-bid meeting on the 4th?

Antony Wong: There is contact information on the bottom of the posting.

Mae Lee: Will we be notified of their questions if relevant?

Antony Wong: Yes.

Josephine Lee: I will reach out to the panelists to schedule a meeting.

Antony Wong: It should be scheduled for the last two weeks of February.

Billie Zhu: Why a November completion?

Antony Wong: We think their work can be completed in six months.

Rob Hollander: Will the prebid meeting be announced?

Antony Wong: The prebid meeting will be held at a full group CWG meeting for February, so it will be fully notified.

We'll have town halls and consultant interim reports. The final report will be posted on our website for members to review before the CWG December full group meeting.

Mitchell Grubler: What else do they get aside from this posting.

Antony Wong: They will get the entire RFP.

## 5. Other Business & Community Announcements

Mitchell Grubler: A group of us have presented two proposals to the New Museum, briefly discussed at the last meeting. Tentatively called *Ideas Chinatown*, one of these events would be an opportunity, with the New Museum's publicity, to present CWG proposals to a larger audience along with other Chinatown organizations. Videographers, artists and other creative people would translate proposals into visual and exciting form. It's a chance for our group to display the the working teams' efforts of the last three years and to push along our proposals by letting the rest of the city and city elected officials to take notice of our proposals, given such a public forum.

The other proposal is a city candidates forum for us to address zoning concerns about overdevelopment and gentrification. Candidates listen when they are looking for a vote. We'd be one of a long list of organizations cosponsoring.

Josephine Lee: Is the New Museum planning this candidates forum?

Mitchell Grubler: The New Museum asked for proposals for an event in May called *Ideas City*. Both of these proposals could proceed without the New Museum.

Rob Hollander: It would be interesting to have the consultant to attend the *Chinatown Ideas*. There will be a panel discussion so it would be an opportunity for the consultant to see the panel discussion and the audience responses.

Bob Lee: The candidates forum is centered around *The Domino Effect* about the Williamsburg rezoning. It shows the struggles over gentrification and how communities can be betrayed by city rezonings.

Mae Lee: Has any work been done towards these events? Often these take a lot of work and preparation.

Rob Hollander: Not all of the candidates have announced, so it is premature and it may be difficult to get mayoral candidates. However, we've got other organizations on board. If not mayoral, then we'll look for council candidates who also must vote on zoning.

Bob Lee: Some candidates have been informed including Laurie Cumble.

Mae Lee: So is it a mayoral candidates forum?

Rob Hollander: We are aiming for mayoral. If impossible, then we'll look for council and borough president candidates.

Antony Wong: Possibly next month we can vote whether to participate. If not, the groups will do the event anyway, but they'd like our support. So we will send the proposals around to our members again. Does the New Museum have a deadline for acceptance for proposals?

Bob Lee: I will check.

Steve Maing: We are screening our documentary *High Tech, Low Life* about two journalists traveling through Mainland China addressing issues of social injustice, eminent domain and other issues that will resonate with the Chinatown Working Group. Send out to your contacts:

Steve Maing and Trina Rodriguez, *High Tech, Low Life*

Screening Jan 9-15 at IFC

hightechlowlife@gmail.com

Filmmakers will talk at the Wednesday screenings, Jan 9.

88 mins.

Adjourned at 4:50PM.