

Draft Minutes of the Chinatown Working Group (CWG) Full Group Meeting
5:00pm-6:00pm, Monday, April 20, 2015
Two Bridges Senior Apartments, 80 Rutgers Slip

Voting members present: Bowery Alliance of Neighbors (Mitchell Grubler); Chinatown Business and Property Owners Group (Douglas Woodward); Chinatown Manpower Project (Eddie Chan); Chinese Progressive Association (Mae Lee); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Wendy Cheung, Wah Lee); Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (Naved Husain); Community Board 1 (Michael Levine); Community Board 2 (Antony Wong); Lower East Side Mujeres & Hombres Luchadores (Yolanda Donato, Louise Velez); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Amelia Aviles, David Tieu); Two Bridges Neighborhood Council (Dan Ping He, Victor Papa, Wilson Soo); 11 Allen Street Tenants Union (Wai Yee Poon).

Also present: Rob Hollander, Frank Yee, Susan Yung.

Elected officials: Manhattan Borough President (Ahmed Tigani).

Meeting called to order by Wilson Soo and Antony Wong at 5:16pm.

Agenda

Antony Wong: The voting structure can be discussed during new business.

David Tieu: Can we put voting first since I don't see how we can move forward until we've settled that.

Michael Levine: I'm here to discuss creating an implementation task force. I have no objection to adding an item, but I just want to be sure that we address the implementation task force, which was advertised as the primary reason for this meeting.

Antony Wong: Let's wait until Rob is here, since he drew up the voting structure chart for us.

David Tieu: We haven't had quorum for a long time.

Antony Wong: Quorum is only necessary for voting, and we have no vote scheduled today. The implementation group will be created through volunteers. We'll need members to follow up with the community board and City Planning and the mayor's office to get Chinatown in the next plan from the city coming up in January. So we seem to have seven months to work with the community board in order to get something on DCP's desk to be on the map for the next neighborhoods that the mayor actually wants to look at for protection and additional affordable housing. If we don't become active, the city will not take us seriously.

Wendy Cheung: Also we haven't yet discussed SPURA and the area north of Grand Street.

Victor Papa: CB3 will not take us seriously if we do not create an implementation team to push for what we have already decided on.

Antony Wong: The next step is creating an implementation group. There are no votes impending, so voting structure is not a pressing matter. Also, we can't resolve the quorum/voting structure today when we don't have quorum for a vote.

David Tieu: How can we continue?

Antony Wong: The implementation team will be following up on what we've already decided.

Wendy Cheung: We can't move forward until we resolve our voting structure.

Mae Lee: We have already resolved several areas.

Wendy Cheung: We don't have enough people to pass a vote on areas we haven't decided on.

Mae Lee: Then having enough people is important. As the group gets smaller, we lose legitimacy. We need to have more people present. That's the challenge.

Antony Wong: We can talk about voting now that Rob is here.

Rob Hollander: [Describes the voting structure chart; see attached.] CWG is smaller now than when the current voting requirement was created. To change the voting structure, we'd need at least 15 members present according to the current voting structure. Let's have a straw poll to see how people feel.

Douglas Woodward: So David, which voting proposal do you prefer?

David Tieu: The 8 minimum to pass a vote.

Rob Hollander: That's a low bar. I prefer a majority (13) of a 51% quorum or 46 members (24).

David Tieu: 8 would be a majority of the number of members who typically attend.

Rob Hollander: Why not a majority of the number of members who typically attend a vote? That would be 11.

Michael Levine: Let's ask the chairs what they want to do.

Rob Hollander: Part of our current structure is to have all decisions be made by the full group, not any part of the group, including the chairs.

Mae Lee: That's right.

Douglas Woodward: Let's have a straw poll.

Rob Hollander: David recommends that a majority of the number of typical attendees be the voting requirement -- 8 votes in favor would pass a motion whether quorum is achieved or not. Another proposal would require a majority of a typical meeting at which votes have been priorly announced. That would require 11 votes in favor to pass a motion regardless whether quorum is achieved or not. I proposed that the requirement be the majority of a normal quorum of the entire group. The group now has 46 members, 24 would be quorum so 13 members all in favor could pass a vote regardless whether quorum is achieved. The Chair proposes that the percentage of the group should be maintained, so that under current membership, 30% would be 14 members to pass a vote regardless of quorum. This would provide proportional continuity in the voting structure.

Michael Levine: Let's go around the room to see what each member prefers.

Antony Wong: I prefer 14.

Douglas Woodward: 11

Victor Papa: 14

Michael Levine: 14

David Tieu: 8.

Wendy Cheung: 8.

Yolanda Donato: 8.

Eddie Chan: 11

Naved Husain: 11

Mae Lee: 14

Mitchell Grubler: 14

Rob Hollander: 3 for 8, 3 for 11, 5 for 14. I just want to point out that if 14 is the voting requirement, and the group achieves quorum of 51%, a motion could not pass with a majority of quorum.

David Tieu: I'm willing to change my vote to 11.

Antony Wong: That narrows the choices to 11 and 14.

Implementation

Antony Wong: The next step is to push the community board to approve our plans before the mayor announces in January the next group of neighborhoods for rezoning and affordable development. That gives us seven to eight months to get something on the plate.

Rob Hollander: Is it not possible for City Planning to discuss with us directly?

Douglas Woodward: DCP meets with community groups often. There's no reason not to meet with City Planning. I suggest that a smaller group meet with them. We might talk with them about a smaller area since they have already told us that they are only interested in area A.

Michael Levine: We don't have to stop at CB3. We can go to DCP to say that we have a wide agenda, we can say to the mayor that we have a wide agenda, to the Department of Transportation, to the Department of Education, to Parks and Recreation. Let's create an implementation team and have the co-Chairs appoint co-chairs of it.

Antony Wong: The Pratt team recommended that we begin implementing our plans.

Rob Hollander: The teams are supposed to choose their own chairs. I think the entire membership should be invited to participate in implementation and maybe we should bring together an economic team to

draw up an economic plan. As each team finished its plan, it became an implementation team for those plans. CAPZ is now an implementation team for its plans.

Michael Levine: I would prefer that it not be called CAPZ, but a general implementation team.

Antony Wong: At the next meeting we'll vote on the voting structure choices and we'll discuss an implementation team and their charge.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Hollander, Sec'y

DRAFT

Proposed by	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	QUORUM PROPOSED	LEAST VOTE TO PASS A MOTION	DESCRIPTION
Margaret	46	25% (=12)	$12/2+1=\underline{7}$	quorum= $\frac{1}{4}$ of total membership
Doug (average attendance)	46	15	$15/2+1=\underline{8}$	quorum =average attendance
Doug (average attendance at vote-meetings)	46	20	$20/2+1=\underline{11}$	quorum =average attendance at a meeting where a vote was on the agenda
Rob	46	51% (=24)	$24/2+1=\underline{13}$	a majority vote of the quorum number
Antony	46		30% = <u>14</u>	30% of the total membership
Anj	46			proposal to be based on further discussion