Superblock Stewardship Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: Monday, March 16, 2015

Members in Attendance: Barbara Albrecht, Rachel Belsky, Sewin Chan, Jeff Goodwin, Anne Hearn, Neal Herman, Angela Kamer, Alison Leary, Kenny Lee, Larry Maslon, Allen Mincer, Michael Patullo, Eero Simoncelli

Members Not in Attendance: Lynne Brown, Michael Hengerer, Julia O'Connor, Rosemary Scanlon

1. Comments from the Chair

Chair Larry Maslon welcomed the Committee and called the meeting to order.

2. Coles Redevelopment Update

Deputy Chief of Staff Michael Patullo informed the Committee that the New York State Court of Appeals has scheduled oral arguments for early June. He also confirmed that the Coles Sports and Recreation Center will remain open through at least August 1, 2015.

In addition, Patullo also provided an update on the ongoing effort to introduce the Coles architectural team to the NYU community. He noted that recent meetings with students and faculty (including in the performing arts) had been well-attended, and that discussion at these meetings were fruitful and productive. Patullo reminded the Committee that the architects are currently in the process of meeting with the end user groups and that the building programming is proceeding on schedule. It is anticipated that the architects will share some preliminary findings with the Committee in mid to late-April. Executive Vice President Alison Leary noted that the programming phase should be largely concluded by the early summer. Members also inquired about the supermarket. Leary indicated that a process of analyzing options is ongoing.

Leary also provided an update on the window replacement project. She indicated that the project in Washington Square Village has been progressing smoothly with strong positive feedback from the residents on the team of contractors doing the work. Silver Towers, which will be a more complex undertaking and requires a more detailed implementation strategy, is currently in the planning stages with communications to residents expected soon.

Communications Manager Heather Skolnick reported that, in response to concerns expressed by residents who had trouble lifting their newly-installed windows in Washington Square Village, the window team is exploring options to help residents open their windows. She asked that tenants who need help opening their windows call the Client Services Center.
Members also asked about the availability of interim fitness and athletic options, in particular about the necessary approvals needed to operate a fitness center at 404 Lafayette Street. Patullo noted the University is seeking the extension of a special permit, which was previously held by Crunch Fitness at the same location, from the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals.

3. **Next Steps regarding Stewardship**

Alison Leary noted that her office has reached out to several outside experts from similar residential complexes and/or organizations for a roundtable discussion at the Committee’s next meeting. The Committee also reviewed a document that listed potential questions for the panel of experts. Michael Patullo agreed to incorporate feedback from the Committee and circulate a draft briefing to panelists for advance review.

Members also discussed a number of other concerns related to the stewardship of the superblocks, including:

- How the demographic profile of the resident population informs governance
- NYU’s dual relationship as landlord and employer
- Relationship between NYU properties and surrounding community, especially with respect to access to open spaces by the general public and enforcement of policies
- Ability of NYU to control and regulate City-owned and/or regulated strips of land (e.g., Mercer Corners, Silver Towers Landmarked Plaza, etc.)
- Effects of the planned Coles Redevelopment on open space planning
- Involvement of non-NYU tenants (e.g., UPNS, Creative Steps, Visiting Neighbors, etc.) in the planning process