Meeting date: Thursday October 13th, 2015 12:30 – 2:00

Meeting location: Kimmel Center 912 (60 Washington Square South, 9th Floor)


Members not in attendance: Neal Herman, Alison Leary

1. Comments from the Chair

Committee Chair Larry Maslon called the meeting to order.

Senior Vice President Lynne Brown announced that NYU was awarded a Green Star Honor Award from the Professional Grounds Management Society in the Urban University Grounds category for exceptional grounds maintenance. Brown thanked the NYU Landscaping team, particularly sustainable landscaping supervisor, George Reis, for making our University look beautiful.

Malson announced that the Washington Square Village window replacement project has come to an end with over 1,100 apartments having received new windows and air conditioning unit covers. Malson asked the Committee if they would like to co-sign a congratulatory note to the Division of Operations, the Office of Faculty Housing, and the window team, to be distributed to the residents of the superblocks. The Committee agreed a note would be a nice way to thank the team for their tremendous effort.

2. Open Space Update

Coles Project Director Rachel Belsky provided an update on the status of the open space projects planned for LaGuardia Place between West 3rd Street and Bleecker Street and on Bleecker Street between LaGuardia Place and Mercer Street. Belsky reminded the Committee that the City asked the University to work with the Departments of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Transportation to enhance these spaces before work begins on the Coles site.

A landscape design for these open spaces was shaped over a 3-year period under the direction of the Department of Parks and the Department of Transportation, and with input from the Open Space Oversight Organization (“OSOO”), a five-member organization comprised of a representative from the Manhattan Borough President's Office, Council Member Chin's office, Community Board 2, the Department of Parks and
Recreation, and NYU. Community Board 2 reviewed and issued a resolution on the project in December 2014 and the Public Design Commission granted final approval on October 5, 2015.

Belsky showed the Committee renderings of the Bleecker Street and LaGuardia Place Landscapes and said the University is in the pre-construction planning and permitting phase of the project. Communications Manager Heather Banoub confirmed that detailed about these projects will be communicated in advance of the start of work.

The Committee posed questions about the height of the new fence on Bleecker Street near the Oak Grove; if new lights would be installed as part of the LaGuardia Landscape project; if the ivy beds would remain on LaGuardia Place; and if the Friends of LaGuardia would continue to maintain the LaGuardia statute. Belsky explained that the lowered fence would be supplemented by a hedge that would provide an extra barrier between Bleecker Street and the Oak Grove. The plan calls for LED lightbulbs to be installed in the existing lamps on LaGuardia Place and for the ivy beds to remain to protect the tree roots, but the ivy will be thinned and cleaned out. It was noted that the Friends of LaGuardia would continue to maintain the LaGuardia statute and NYU will be responsible for maintaining the landscapes after they are completed, in accordance with a maintenance agreement signed with the Department of Parks.

3. **Subcommittee Meetings**

Malson invited the subcommittee groups to divide into their meeting rooms. The subcommittees spent the remainder of the meeting time in discussion on their respective topics.