Superblock Stewardship Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 14, 2018, 11:00am – 12:30pm

Meeting Location: President’s Conference Room, Bobst Library, 12th Floor

Members in attendance: Barbara Albrecht, Clare Aronow, Michael Ferguson, Anne Hearn, Angela Kamer, Larry Maslon, Robert Shapley, Yu Shi, Eero Simoncelli

Members Not in Attendance: Michael Garabedian, Allen Mincer, Sena Pottackal, Steven Ramdilal

NYU Representatives: Lynne Brown, Senior VP, University Relations & Public Affairs (ex-officio)
Linda Chiarelli, VP, Capital Projects and Facilities
Erin Lynch, AVP, Faculty Housing
Arlene Peralta, Senior Director, Community Engagement (ex-officio)
Rachel Belsky, Project Director, University Relations (ex-officio)
Heather Banobb, Assistant Director of Communications, Community Engagement (ex-officio)
Erin Donnelly, Community Liaison, Faculty Housing (ex-officio)

Invited Guests: Joe Juliano, Vice Provost for Strategic Planning
Leighton Mitchell, Director Facilities Administration, NYU Tisch School of the Arts
Randy Susevich, Director, Music Performance Venues and Facilities, NYU Steinhardt

1. Welcome and Comments from the Chair
Maslon welcomed the Committee and asked for input on encouraging superblock residents to embrace the NYU Client Services Center (CSC) for issues beyond maintenance. Aronow recommended rebranding the CSC as NYU’s 311. Brown will bring idea up at a future meeting with representatives from Public Safety, and Facilities and Construction Management. Brown also confirmed that Public Safety is still slated to move into ground floor space in 1WSV facing LaGuardia Place.

2. Mercer Playground Update, Lynne Brown
Maslon shared a letter to be sent to President Hamilton and Provost Fleming to formalize the Committee’s request that the University support their exploration of options for enhancing the Mercer Playground. Edits were recommended and the letter was approved by acclimation.

The Committee was reminded that over a year and a half ago superblock residents and faculty, and members of the UPNS Board, visited the local Community Board to talk about traffic calming on West 3rd Street. Paired with support from NYU, the DOT agreed to perform an assessment and created a traffic calming plan. This plan was expected to be shared at the Community Board in June 2018, but has been rescheduled to take place in July 2018. WSV and ST Tenants’ Association members had a special briefing with the DOT in June, since many residents would not be available to attend the Community Board meeting in July. Pending Community Board support, traffic calming measures can be put in place as early as Fall 2018. The proposed traffic calming measures may include the narrowing of West 3rd Street.
between LaGuardia Place and Mercer Street with a widened pedestrian sidewalk area, a bike lane, and reducing the street to one vehicular traffic lane. Parking regulations on the north side of West 3rd Street may also change. Peralta confirmed that the pedestrian crossing across West 3rd Street would be repainted and signage would be part of DOT’s plan. Aronow added that at the stakeholder meeting, the Tenants’ Association asked DOT to look into incorporating traffic calming on Bleecker Street as well.

4. **Superblock Signage Update, Rachel Belsky**
A signage vendor has been selected and all aspects of the plan are currently being reviewed and finalized. Installation is still scheduled for fall 2018. Belsky also confirmed that the new Urban Farm Lab fence has been installed.

5. **Student Agriculture Club Update**
   a. **New Agriculture Club Space Name, Lynne Brown**
   In finalizing the signage plan, the name of the space currently used by the student agriculture club was under reconsideration. In an effort to rename the space to connect it to other open spaces on the WSV block, particularly The Backyard, The Side Yard was recommended and signed off by Student Affairs. SSAC members concurred with the new name.

   b. **Summer Maintenance Plan, Heather Banoub**
   At least two Student Agriculture Club executive board members are scheduled to be on-campus over the summer to tend to the agriculture club space and ensure watering, weed removal, and general maintenance are kept up.

6. **181 Mercer Street: Performing Arts Presentation, Leighton Mitchell (TSOA) and Randy Susevich (Steinhardt)**
The Committee was oriented to where the Performing Arts spaces are located within the 181 Mercer Street building. Mitchell reviewed the floorplans for each level of Tisch’s program pointing out the locations of eight acting studios for combat, dance, and acting; spaces for production support including workshops to make and store sets, props, and costumes; and both the graduate Endstage and Warehouse Theatres. Susevich reviewed the floorplans for each level of Steinhardt’s program, pointing out the locations of the: Ensemble Classrooms, Percussion Spaces, Orchestra Rehearsal Space, Private and Specialty Instruction Spaces, 58 Practice Rooms, and Music Library. Together, Mitchell and Susevich showed the location and facts about the Proscenium Theatre including how it was designed to meet the needs of both Tisch and Steinhardt. 181 Mercer Street has afforded the University with an opportunity to design spaces to meet highly customized needs (i.e. the Proscenium Theater’s fly loft), which existing spaces with set floor plates could never accommodate. Both schools emphasized that these spaces will reduce the need for the schools to seek out rental spaces around the City and they have been carefully designed to work efficiently for the needs of both schools.

7. **181 Mercer Street: Common Space Presentation, Linda Chiarelli**
Chiarelli walked the Committee through spaces in the building that are not programmed for a particular use. With circulation around the building located around the perimeter there were many opportunities to set up seating areas on the first, second, and sixth floors. These spaces take adjacent programs in mind and have been designed with the help of a furniture consultant. Chiarelli reviewed the main building entrances and the Commons space. Maslon recommended the University begin thinking about policies around how spaces like the Common may be used for events and other rental requests. The Committee was reminded that most of the green roof spaces will not be accessible, but will be designed to help manage storm water runoff. Finally a rendering of the outdoor terrace accessible via the
building’s sixth floor café was shared. This space is designed to accommodate different size groups ranging from about fifteen to about sixty-five. A Committee member asked what company will be managing the café. Chiarelli shared that the University Campus Services has released an RFP for all food services. Maslon recommended looking into the New School’s vendor.

This was the last meeting of the semester and committee members will receive an email requesting their fall 2018 availability.