Superblock Stewardship Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: Thursday, March 2, 2017, 12:00pm – 1:30pm

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

Members in attendance: Barbara Albrecht, Clare Aronow, Anne Hearn, Neal Herman, Angela Kamer, Larry Maslon, Allen Mincer, Joseph Onwughalu, Erica Silverman, Robert Shapley, Eero Simoncelli

Members Not in Attendance: Juan Bello, Ezra Sacks

NYU Representatives: Lynne Brown, Senior VP, University Relations & Public Affairs (ex-officio)
Arlene Peralta, Senior Director, Community Engagement (ex-officio)
Rachel Belsky, Project Director, University Relations (ex-officio)
Heather Banoub, Assistant Director of Communications, Community Engagement (ex-officio)
Erin Donnelly, Community Liaison, Faculty Housing (ex-officio)

1. Welcome and Comments from the Chair
Chair Larry Maslon welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order. The semester has been divided between discussion on general superblock enhancements and 181 Mercer Street. Today’s meeting will be focused on the former and the April meeting (scheduled for April 3, 2017) will include a presentation by the 181 Mercer Street architects. That will provide updates on any programming changes, updates on the internal circulation and layout of the building, including entrances and larger spaces like the Commons, and early design concepts for the exterior landscaping, with a focus on the Greene Street Walk, and roof gardens. Brown reminded the Committee that this touchpoint will come before the architects complete design development, which is scheduled to continue through June. Simoncelli asked if the Committee should anticipate any programmatic changes. Brown said the architects will update the Committee on the number of “residential colleges” and any updates on faculty housing.

2. Urban Farm and North Path Update
Maslon thanked all the Committee members who attended the Community Board 2 Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) Committee meeting and showed support for the urban farm and north path applications, which was noted by the Community Board #2 in their resolution of approval. The Community Board is the first stop in the application process before the application is presented to the LPC. The LPC hearing is scheduled for Tuesday (March 7, 2017), and testimony can be submitted in advance of the hearing. Twenty-five testimonies in favor of the applications have been submitted so far.

3. Community Agriculture Club Update
Banoub reported that temporary signs have been installed in the student’s Community Agriculture Club, which describes the space to passersby. Banoub and Peralta met with the Student Affairs representatives to discuss the club. Student Affairs has agreed to work with the club on things like
setting guidelines for maintaining the space. Aronow asked if a composting program can be set up in WSV (one is already in place in ST). Donnelly reported that Faculty Housing is working on it.

4. Faculty Housing Programming Update

Before discussing programming and protocols, the Committee was asked to select a new name for the space behind Bareburger. A recommendation to call the space “The Backyard” was put forth by the UR-WSV. A second recommendation to call the space “The Village Green” was put forth. The Committee voted and “The Backyard” was affirmed as the name for the space.

Donnelly let the Committee know that the proposed rules for the space came from a number of residential communities and parks around the area. “The Backyard” would be locked from dusk to dawn and open to residents and their guests. Donnelly listed a rules and a number of activities and items that would not be permitted in the space (please see attached document). The Committee agreed that Faculty Housing should set the hours and number of event slots available for private events in “The Backyard” per week.

The Committee discussed various issues related to how residents and their guests would access the space. The Committee agreed “The Backyard” would be left unlocked during the pilot period and after assessing popularity, the University could always look into a new system (like key fobs or NYU ID access pads), given the expense and resources needed to manage the system, given the large population living in WSV and ST. The Committee also recommended the Faculty Housing have passes available that residents could pick up for guests to use the space. The Committee reaffirmed that regular patrolling of the superblocks was still a priority and Brown confirmed that once policies were set and signage installed, discussions with Marlon Lynch and Public Safety would resume.

5. Update on Signage and Way-Finding Consultant RFP

A RFP for comprehensive signage for the superblocks was issued, and Monday, February 27, was the deadline for proposals. Four responses were received. American Signcrafters, C&G Partners, Gensler, and Matiz Architecture and Design submitted proposals. Belsky noted that all firms had NYU experience and were qualified to complete the assignment. Belsky will consult with the Office of Construction Management (OCM) but through the Gensler proposal was strongest. Their proposal contained clearly articulated project goals and a well thought-out work plan, their fees are in line with the estimated project budget, and they have formidable NYU experience, including the Leslie E-Lab, Steinhardt School Music Department, and NYU Poly.

Simoncelli asked if this project should be part of a signage master plan including the area around 181 Mercer Street. Brown said the 181 Mercer Street signage was separate and reminded the Committee that the signage around Silver Towers would need to be LPC approved. The existing signage around Silver Towers is already approved and the plan is to have the new signage design be similar to what is already in place around Silver Towers, but once signage is in place the 181 Mercer Street architects will take that into account in designing signage for the new building.

Maslon noted that the lobby screens in WSV look great. Donnelly said she has been receiving a lot of positive feedback as well. She is still “tweaking” them in terms of picture clarity and content.

6. 181 Mercer Street Update

Banoub reported that below grade demolition has commenced and is scheduled to continue through the early summer. Excavation, which includes the removal of the existing foundation, rock, and soil, is
scheduled to begin in March 2017 and continue for approximately seven months. A Borough President Construction meeting is scheduled for mid-March and HDR, the independent monitor, is scheduled to report on work on site since the last Construction Committee meeting in December. The Community Board meeting, which took place in early-February went well. The Community Board Committee was updated on construction and Renee Burillo from OCM walked through the programming of the building. Most of the questions posed were about specific details about the public atrium and the façade materials, both of which are still underway in design development.

Maslon adjourned the meeting.
‘THE BACKYARD’

PROPOSED RULES FOR THE LAWN

- Like Sasaki Garden, unlocked and open to residents dawn to dusk;
- The Lawn is exclusively for residents and their guests. All residents, visitors or occupants should be prepared to show valid identification if requested by management;
- Residents who use The Lawn must carry out their trash;
- NO PETS· NO ORGANIZED SPORTS
- ACTIVITIES NOT PERMITTED · Alcohol or Illicit Drug Use · Amplified Sound (except with permission) · Barbequing · Disorderly Conduct · Littering · Smoking
- ITEMS NOT PERMITTED · Bicycles · Freestanding Furniture or Equipment · Glass Bottles · Inflatables or Mechanical Rides · Roller Skates/Blades or Skateboards · Strollers or Wheeled Toys · Tents or Hammocks · Water Balloons or Water Sports

PROPOSED PROTOCOL FOR PRIVATE EVENT RESERVATIONS

- Faculty Housing residents may reserve The Lawn by emailing facultyhousing.events@nyu.edu
- A reservation schedule will be posted near The Lawn entrance;
- The Lawn may be reserved for <30 guests for $20/hour or $50/3 hours;
- For assistance with The Lawn, contact on-duty super at XXX-XX-XXXX.

*Key Park reference image: see example of a glass case for the posted reservation schedule.

PROPOSED EVENTS INCLUDE

MARCH: CHILDREN’S DRAWING CONTEST [AIA ON LGA]

APRIL: GARDENING WORKSHOP [THE LAWN]

MAY: SASAKI GARDEN SPRING AWAKENING CELEBRATION

JUNE: MAKE MUSIC NY [OAK GROVE]

JULY: OUTDOOR FILM SCREENING [THE LAWN]

JULY: ICE CREAM SOCIAL [THE LAWN]

AUG: ADULT YOGA [SASAKI GARDEN]

SEPT: SUPER-BLOCK PARTY [THE LAWN]

OCT: HARVEST FESTIVAL [UNIVERSITY PLAZA]