Superblock Stewardship Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: Monday, March 12, 2018, 10:30am – 12:00pm

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

Members in attendance: Barbara Albrecht, Clare Aronow, Michael Ferguson, Anne Hearn, Larry Maslon, Allen Mincer, Sena Pottackal, Steven Ramdilal (by phone), Robert Shapley, Yu Shi, Eero Simoncelli

Members Not in Attendance: Michael Garabedian, Angela Kamer

NYU Representatives: Lynne Brown, Senior VP, University Relations & Public Affairs (ex-officio)
Erin Lynch, Assistant VP, Faculty Housing
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
Maslon let the Committee know his presentation to the University Senate on February 15, 2018 went well. The two main questions were about what can be done to enhance the Mercer Playground (LMNOP) and improve traffic calming on West 3rd Street. Brown shared that Linda Chiarelli’s 181 Mercer Street presentation to the University Senate on the same day was also well received.

2. Faculty Housing Programming Update, Erin Donnelly
Donnelly updated the Committee on the upcoming Faculty Housing events this spring. Maslon recommended Faculty Housing set up some informal events to encourage families to get out and play in The Backyard in late-March. Lynch let the Committee know Faculty Housing plans to make games and some athletic equipment available for residents to use in The Backyard. Residents will be invited to try the equipment via email once it is stocked.

3. Superblock Signage Update, Rachel Belsky
Fabrications documents, which include the specifications for each sign, have been created. RFPs have been sent to sign vendors and selection is expected by early-April. The Silver Towers signage is scheduled for review by the local Community Board in mid-March, and then the Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) in early April. Belsky is circulating a letter of support template that Committee members can fill out to be sent to the Community Board and LPC. Final text for the Sasaki Garden and Bust of Sylvette has been proposed. Lynn Gumpert, Director of the Grey Art Gallery, will give the Bust of Sylvette text a final review using her art history lens.

Belsky confirmed that the new Urban Farm fence is scheduled to be installed this spring and new temporary signs have been installed on the Oak Grove.

4. DOT Update on West 3rd Street Traffic Calming Measures, Heather Banoub
The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) has let the University know that they are studying the area and are developing a proposal for traffic calming measures that will include the West 3rd Street corridor. The DOT plans to unveil their proposal this spring and will go to the local Community Board for feedback.

5. Photoshoot to Update Superblock Photos, Heather Banoub
Banoub is working with the NYU Photo Bureau to photograph the superblocks once the new signs are in place.

Brown shared the history of the Mercer Playground and reminded the Committee that the Playground is under the jurisdiction of the New York City Parks Department. Committee members discussed how to get stakeholders (WSV and ST residents and neighbors in surrounding buildings) engaged in the process, performing a study on how the Park can best be used, and programming ideas. The Committee acknowledged the redesign would be constrained by the fire lanes and thought having Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP officers) would be a benefit to the Playground. Maslon asked how the Committee can begin the process of enhancing the Playground. Brown said her team could reach out to the Parks Department and begin the conversation.

Maslon asked if there were plans to enhance the area used for parking, north of WSV building 4. Brown said the area was under active discussion with some ideas in progress, and more details to come.