Superblock Stewardship Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

Meeting Date:        Monday, April 23, 2018, 10:30am – 12:00pm
Meeting Location:   President’s Conference Room, Bobst Library, 12th Floor
Members in attendance: Barbara Albrecht, Michael Ferguson, Michael Garabedian, David Gresham (representing UR-WSV), Anne Hearn, Larry Maslon, Allen Mincer, Steven Ramdilal, Robert Shapley, Eero Simoncelli

Members Not in Attendance: Clare Aronow, Angela Kamer, Sena Pottackal, Yu Shi

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 Banoub, 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
                Christopher Bledsoe, AVP Student Affairs/Director Athletics
                Grace Cosachov Protos, Executive Director, Office of Work Life

1. Welcome and Comments from the Chair

2. Introducing Grace Cosachov Protos and the Office of Work Life
Cosachov Protos joined the University in December 2017. She comes from the Women’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor where she created policy, conducted research and advocated for working women. As Executive Director for the newly created Office of Work Life, Cosachov Protos shared that she sees the Office as a place where the NYU community can go with specific questions about work-life balance, local schools, child care, elder care, and retirement. The Office of Work Life is expected to move into the ground level of 2 WSV, the current location of the 181 Mercer Street Open House. The Committee recommended Cosachov Protos reach out to the Tenant Associations on the Superblocks.

3. Mercer Playground Update, Lynne Brown
The Committee was reminded that Mercer Playground is not NYU property – it is under the jurisdiction of the New York City Parks Department and any enhancements will require the engagement of many external partners. The Committee agreed to formalize their request that the University support their exploration of options for enhancing the space. The Committee will draft a statement of support that can be sent to President Hamilton and Provost Fleming and they will seek the support of the Tenants’ Associations in Washington Square Village and Silver Towers.

4. Superblock Signage Update, Rachel Belsky
The NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission approved the University’s signage plan for the Silver Towers block. Belsky was also pleased to report that the Commission was very complimentary of the
plan and applauded the Committee for their hard work. Signage vendor selection is underway. Shop drawings will follow selection, and installation of the new signage across both WSV and ST is expected this fall.

Maslon asked that open space closure notices for reseeding include alternative options for similar use that are open and available for residents to use. The Office of Faculty Housing agreed to implement. Lynch announced that a new landscape contractor has been selected to maintain the superblock open spaces and planting beds. Lynch also announced that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is scheduled to move into ground floor space in 1WSV as early as this June. DPS can be invited to visit the Committee this fall to discuss the roll-out of their new Community policing model.

Banoub reported that she met with the student agriculture club and discussed their spring planting plan. Unfortunately, the weather to date has not permitted extensive planting. A meeting is scheduled to review their summer planting and maintenance plan. Banoub also responded to a question about dust monitoring and air quality mitigation for the 181 Mercer Street site. Progress on traffic calming for West 3rd Street was raised. The DOT is expected to unveil their proposal for traffic calming measures this spring at the local Community Board. Once this meeting is scheduled, the Committee will be notified. Brown also recommended the Committee encourage their constituencies continue calling 311 so the issue and concerns can be tracked.

5. Co-Generation Plant Upgrade Update, Linda Chiarelli
As part of the Co-Generation Plant upgrade, work is expected to take place in the WSV and ST garages this summer. The work will result in temporary loss of some parking spots. For WSV, the work involves the installation of utilities in the ceiling. Work in the ST garage will involve chopping concrete, which may generate noise. Chiarelli noted that this work will be prioritized for completion over the summer in an effort to minimize disruption. The upgrade will also require street work across West 3rd Street and Bleecker Street. The timeline for this work is contingent on Con Edison scheduling. The upgrade is expected to provide WSV with emergency service that may eliminate the need for the generators onsite.

6. 181 Mercer Street: Athletics Usage Presentation, Christopher Bledsoe
The Committee was oriented to where Athletics is located within the 181 Mercer Street building. Most Athletic facility users will enter the building at the northwest corner either off the Greene Street Walk or Bleecker Street. Athletics will be found on the ground level, and two levels below grade. Bledsoe reviewed the floorplans for each level of the athletics program, as well as the athletic programs in 404 Fitness, the Palladium Athletic Facility, and the Brooklyn Athletic Facility, all of which will remain in operation when the athletic spaces at 181 Mercer Street come online. Bledsoe answered the Committee’s questions and discussed some of the athletic features that did not fit in the building. Brown reminded the Committee that the University could not accommodate everything it wanted to fit in the building since the design was limited by the City approved building envelope.

7. 181 Mercer Street: Classroom Presentation, Joe Juliano
The classroom program in 181 Mercer was developed through assessing data on course enrollment to identify the types of classrooms most needed at the University. The study found the University was in need of smaller 500 SF classrooms that could fit 20 seats in a seminar style or 30 seats with tablet arms. 58 of this size classroom will be included in 181 Mercer Street, to serve writing, language, and recitation classes during the day, and graduate seminar classes in the evenings. Juliano explained that the classrooms are designed to be flexible from semester to semester in terms of seating set up, and could be combined to make larger classrooms through the removal of walls between classrooms if the need
shifts overtime. Classrooms will be located on levels two, three, and four, and will be oriented toward the interior of the building with circulation along the exterior perimeter of the building. Juliano confirmed: the classrooms will not have windows, the furniture for the classrooms has not yet been selected, each classroom has its own temperature control, and informal seating areas, USB ports, and outlets will be located throughout the building.