

Minutes - NYU Task Force Meeting, April 22, 2008 @ 5:00pm
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South, Large Conference Room

AGENDA: Process for NYU's as-of-right development projects

NOTE: The following is an accurate, but perhaps too brief, outline of a lengthy discussion by Task Force members regarding process. It was provided by The Borough President's office from a large easel display of agreed items for further exploration as the meeting progressed. We have added some comments meant to provide more insight as to the context of the bullet points.

CommUNITYnyc Editor

Because there is no legislated protocol for review of as-of-right projects, and because NYU has agreed to include as-of-right development as a matter for Task Force and community review, the Task Force, including NYU, endeavored to begin constructing a "base line" for the information communities could expect to see and for examination of such plans, in light of the "Planning Principles."

- **Timeline** – *How far in advance of actual construction will NYU present as-of-right development plans?*
 - Before design and development
 - Phasing – *Plans will delineate the phases of development.*
- **Role of the community board, elected officials, and task force.** *Most members agreed that the role of any constituency is overlapping and that more definition will evolve as projects present new aspects, however, generally speaking, it was agreed that the Task Force would endeavor to flesh out as much information and statute relevance as possible for the benefit of community stakeholders (Community Boards and Community Organizations).*
- **Who are the stakeholders?** *The Task Force recognized that it had a responsibility to be sure that each development site was presented to all known stakeholders.*
 - Outreach – *The Task Force will actively work toward engaging more established community-representing organizations.*
 - Plan for a Task Force "Town Hall" – Date TBD
- **What information is needed?** *With the help of Community Boards and their respective committees, the Task Force will develop an outline or check list for information that should be included in as-of-right development presentations.*
- **Review and advise** – *The Task Force will review and advise, prior to community presentation, as often as practicable.*

- Examining planning principles and standards. *This part of the discussion applies to all planning. The Task Force recognized that the Planning Principles need more definition, especially in their use of terms, e.g. contextual, reuse, etc.*
- NYU's internal examination/vetting process. *Prior to any public presentation, NYU examines development in the light of internal considerations and, to some extent vets these with what they know to be primary community or statute concerns. The Task Force expressed a need to better understand what aspects were included in the pre-community vetting in future presentations.*
 - How does proposal fit within NYU 2031? *Core development, offsite development, funding, ratios of academic, housing, administrative space.*
- What questions do we want answered? – *This expanded the discussion of Planning Principles (above) more and introduced the concept of establishing construction, environmental, community notification guidelines*
 - Guidelines
 - Construction guidelines
- What happens when members do not reach consensus? *The possibility of revisiting and refining the initial Task Force conduct guidelines was introduced. Generally, it was agreed that because of the advisory nature of the Task Force, opinions or statements would only be issued upon the items we could agree and that the Task Force would make every effort to do so.*
- Further defining NYU planning principles. *It was agreed that future sessions of the Task Force would be planned exclusively for this discussion. The following are the immediate priorities:*
 - Contextual
 - Reuse
 - Off-campus development
- The community's responsibility to reach consensus. *In that all projects, as-of-right or not, may elicit different or opposing points of "community" interest and that between these communities there may not be consensus, how long does a discussion have to ensue beyond what statutes require?*
 - Listen to constituents

Community input on the questions and considerations raised from this meeting is encouraged. You are invited to comment, by e-mail to zjones@communitynyc.org. *All comments received will be shared with the Task Force.*