Bill Kelly convened the group and welcomed members to the first meeting under his direction. Kelly introduced his priorities for improvements and projects, asking the group to suggest any missing items. The scope of the group’s engagement will be NYPL’s four research libraries, and the agenda items will be taken from a list of the research library strategic priorities. The initial list includes:

1. Improving discoverability and accessibility through the Library’s catalog. It is more difficult than it should be to find research items in the catalog, when compared with the digital platforms of comparable institutions. Kelly’s team has begun working with NYPL’s new Chief Digital Officer, Tony Ageh, to address this.

2. Improving the method of requesting books. Research patrons should be able to request books digitally, know when they will be available and have them delivered successfully. This is particularly important for patrons travelling to the Library from a distance.

3. Reopening the Rose Main Reading Room. The ceiling restoration in the reading room and Bill Blass Catalog Room are progressing ahead of schedule, with both rooms slated to open on October 1, 2016, or before. The goal is to reinscribe these rooms to research, making them quiet and inviolate. Managing tourists will be a priority, with increasing numbers of tourists coming to the building with the opening of the Treasures exhibition.

4. Creating an acquisition strategy. The Library is creating an acquisitions strategy for use across the research collections, to make the acquisitions process less serendipitous.

5. Reviewing research items security. The security procedures used across the research libraries balance the work researchers do with damage and loss prevention. These processes are currently under review.

6. Launching the ReCAP shared collection. A portion of the NYPL general collection holdings will become part of a shared collection, with contributions from and accessible by patrons of the four partner institutions (NYPL,
7. Completing the ingestion of books in the Milstein II research stacks
The furnishment of the second level of underground storage is complete, and the books from NYPL’s temporary storage facility are being returned. By the end of 2016, 1.5 million volumes will be housed in Milstein II, leaving room for a further 1 million new items. Using conservative projections, this space will be filled by 2023.

8. Opening new research exhibition spaces in the Schwarzman Building
The Library is planning to reopen new research exhibition spaces, in additions to the Treasures exhibition launching in the main Gottesman Hall. The third floor Berg exhibition room and the Salomon Room will house research-focused exhibits.

9. Supporting the renovation of Mid-Manhattan and planning any refurbishment of the Schwarzman Building
Renovation of the Mid-Manhattan Library begins in 2017, and its collections and services will be relocated to other midtown locations. Some functions will move to the ground floor of the Schwarzman Building during the renovation.

Following some discussion, the group chose to discuss the ReCAP shared collection in depth at the autumn meeting (date TBD), and determine the following topic at that meeting.

Practical matters:
- Advisory council members will have a term of three years.
- There will be three or four meetings annually, depending on matters under discussion.
- Advisory council members’ names and affiliations will be posted on NYPL.org
- General notes from the meetings will be posted on NYPL.org