

Incorporated Village of Floral Park
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 8, 2017

Belmont Task Force

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that the Belmont Task Force recently met to discuss various topics surrounding the proposals for development at Belmont. At this time, the Village Board has no additional information as to timelines or the various submissions outside of what we all have been reading in the papers. However, one action that we have taken is submitting a letter to Empire State Development Corp. suggesting that they form a Community Advisory Board under the Urban Development Corporation Act. This is similar to the request that we sent to Senator Bonacic earlier in the year and what one Task Force member spoke about at the summer visioning session. In addition to the aforementioned, we are reaching out to some of the potential bidders to arrange for a meeting so we can further educate them on Floral Park and its specific interest and stake in any development at Belmont Park.

Centennial Hall

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that as many of you may now know, our fourth public visioning session regarding Centennial Hall which was scheduled for next Tuesday, November 14 has been cancelled due to continuing negotiations with prospective developers. As soon as practicable, we will reschedule the meeting.

Fire Department

Trustee Pombonyo reported that the Floral Park Fire Department responded to 68 calls, which included 51 emergency medical calls, during the month of October. The Department's recruitment drive for volunteers, including EMTs and firefighters, is still in high gear. You may contact one of our Chiefs or firefighters, or call the Fire Department at 516-326-6327 if you are interested in volunteering with our very hard-working and dedicated department. All residents and businesses are encouraged to keep the 2017 fire prevention motto in mind: EVERY SECOND COUNTS: PLAN 2 WAYS OUT!

Chambers of Commerce

Trustee Pombonyo announced that the Covert Avenue and Floral Park Chambers of Commerce will celebrate SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY on November 25th, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. All are invited to visit, browse and shop at the wonderful variety of stores and other businesses that we have right here in Floral Park on Covert Avenue, Tulip Avenue, Jericho Turnpike and throughout the Village.

Floral Park Public Library

Trustee Cheng reported that on November 5th, the Floral Park Public Library held its 3rd Annual Comic Com. By all reports, it was a huge success.

The Library Board Meeting and the Village Board of Trustees Meeting is being held on the same evening this month so Trustee Cheng said he will make his report on the Library at the next Board of Trustees Meeting.

Police Department

Trustee Cheng reported that the Police Department disposed of over 340 pounds of drugs last week that were turned in by local residents. This enables residents the opportunity to dispose of unused or outdated drugs properly.

On November 8th and 9th, the Floral Park Police Department hosted ALICE Instructor Certification Training. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. We have seen all too often irrational, violent behavior against unarmed citizens who in many cases are children or the elderly. Police Departments are educating themselves and the public as to what steps they can take to protect themselves until police arrive and what steps the police can take to minimize casualties.

Trustee Cheng said he was recently given some interesting annual statistics regarding crime in the Village from 1983 to 2016. In 1983, we had 98 burglaries and in 2016 we had 10. Robberies went down from 17 to 6. Auto larceny went from 34 to 4. Trustee Cheng said the statistic on DWI stands out due to the education of the population. In 1983, there were 118 cases of DWI and in 2016, there were 19. These statistics prove that our Police Department is doing an excellent job and that educating the public lowers crime rates.

Recreation Center

Trustee Chiara reported that with the cooler weather upon us, the Recreation Center is slowly becoming quieter.

Titans Football is nearly over and they are rescheduling games that were rained out.

Little League has completed its Fall season. The Village is working with Little League to convert one of the fields to accommodate intermediate play. This would allow players to have a smoother transition to the larger fields of play.

The Recreation Committee recently met with the architect who is redesigning Tiny Town. The committee viewed a drawing of the proposed playground plan. Materials for construction, play apparatus and landscaping and design were all discussed. The committee requested a few changes and we are waiting for a new presentation. Hopefully, the plan will be presented shortly.

With Veterans Day nearing, Trustee Chiara took the opportunity to thank all of our veterans for their service to our country. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those currently serving in the United States Armed Forces; and, if given the opportunity, please thank them for all that they are doing and have done to protect our freedom. Trustee Chiara personally thanked all our veterans!

Mayor's Report

Mayor Longobardi said he had the great pleasure of meeting with third grade students from John Lewis Childs School on October 19th and October 24th. The four classes met with the Fire Department, Police Department and Four Village Studio and then with the Mayor in the Village Hall court room. Their questions were interesting and amusing, ranging from does the Mayor own a dog, how many brothers and sisters does he have, and why are homeowners responsible for fixing sidewalks that are damaged by Village trees? Mayor Longobardi said he enjoyed speaking to the children and working in conjunction with our wonderful schools.

Mayor Longobardi echoed the sentiments of his fellow Trustees to please remember our veterans this Veterans Day and to thank them for their service to ensure the freedoms we all enjoy.

Mayor Longobardi thanked Felix Procaccia and Khristopher Brooks from Newsday for attending this evening's meeting.