

January 17, 2017 Board Meeting Reports

Belmont Task Force

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that two weeks ago, the Belmont Task Force met to discuss various items related to Belmont Park:

- New York State Development Corporation's cancelling of the RFPs that were put forth a few years ago;
- Various new stories surrounding the New York Cosmos and New York Islanders; and
- NYRA's improvements at Belmont Park, specifically the \$9.1 million that is proposed in 2017.

Separately, according to a news story over this past weekend, the Senate Racing and Wagering Committee were scheduled to meet on January 17th to discuss the potential end of state control over NYRA. The list of invited speakers was the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce and the Saratoga Community Advisory Board. Noticing there was no representation for Belmont Park, Trustee Fitzgerald penned a letter to Senator John Bonacic, the Chairman of the Committee. In the letter, Trustee Fitzgerald informed the Senator that Floral Park, along with the communities that surround Belmont Park, also have a stake in the potential privatization of NYRA and its implications. In addition, Trustee Fitzgerald asked the Senator to establish a Belmont Community Advisory Board similar to the one in Saratoga with Floral Park being a part of it. Separately, the Village reached out to our local state representatives to alert them of our letter.

Local Law No. 01-2017

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that we have not received any additional comments on Local Law No. 01-2017 to update the Ethical Code for the Inc. Village of Floral Park. Therefore, the Public Hearing for Local Law No. 01-2017 will remain open until our next Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2017.

Recreation Center

Trustee Longobardi reported that things at the Recreation Center are quiet, now that we are in the winter season. However, the Screaming Eagles Hockey Team are enjoying themselves playing games at the rink.

Four Village Studio

Trustee Longobardi reported that he had the privilege of attending Four Village Studio's 19th Annual Staff Party in which the Studio's Manager, James Green, spoke of the accomplishments of the Studio during 2016. Trustee Longobardi said the Studio provides a wonderful education for young people who are interested in the field of communications. Trustee Longobardi said he is very proud of the award the Studio recently won but especially of all the efforts put forth by

the volunteers throughout the year, led by Jim Green. Trustee Longobardi said he looks forward to another wonderful year and marking the Studio's milestone of 20 years in operation!

Building Department

Trustee Pombonyo reported that the Village has continued to receive proposals for the purchase, lease and/or development of Centennial Hall and the property. Discussions with CBRE, the commercial real estate consultant retained by the Village, and the interested parties will continue as we pursue further detail about their proposals. A third community visioning meeting for Centennial Hall will be planned.

In response to recent questions regarding the opening of new businesses in the Village of Floral Park, the following procedural information is offered. When new businesses plan to open, and maintain uses similar to those of the prior businesses without significant time lapses, special use permits are not usually required. Therefore, new business owners planning to make changes from the prior businesses on those premises, including exterior signage and awnings, are urged to contact the Floral Park Building Department first. When a business's operations become a concern to residents or other businesses, the police department or the building department should be notified depending on the nature of the concern. The police department will follow up with investigations to determine if laws have been broken and advise the business accordingly. The building department will address any building code violations and guide the business owner in ensuring compliance. Notices of violation and orders to cease and desist problematic activities may be served. The Chambers of Commerce work closely with the Village and new businesses to provide a warm welcome to Floral Park and other supportive outreach.

Floral Park Public Library

Trustee Pombonyo reported that all are invited to the Friends of the Library Book Sale on Saturday, January 28th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday, January 29th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the library. You'll find some good reads at good prices for a good cause – that is, to support special programs and purchase materials that will enhance our library offerings. Sunday, the 29th is Bargain Book Sale Day when you can purchase and fill a Friends' tote bag with books for \$6.00, or bring your own Friends' tote and fill it with your favorite books for \$4.00.

Department of Public Works

Trustee Cheng reported that the Department of Public Works did an excellent job with snow removal during the last storm. We were fortunate in that the snow that fell was the light kind of snow and easy to shovel.

Long Island Rail Road Third Track Expansion Project

Trustee Cheng said that the Public Hearings for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with regard to the Long Island Rail Road Third Track Expansion Project is proceeding as we speak at the Yes we Can Community Center in Westbury. DEIS Public Hearings will also be

held at Hofstra University on Wednesday, January 18th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and at the Inn at New Hyde Park on Thursday, January 19th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Trustee Cheng said he is planning to attend the public hearing on Thursday, the 19th.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Tweedy complimented Trustee Cheng for all his hard work regarding the Long Island Rail Road Third Track Expansion Project and for coordinating a robo call to residents informing them of the public hearings taking place regarding the DEIS. Mayor Tweedy also thanked the other members of the Board for their efforts in keeping abreast with all the information coming in from outside sources. Mayor Tweedy said this Village Board takes its responsibilities very seriously and that their oath is a moral commitment to the residents of this Village.

Mayor Tweedy said that business is the backbone of the Village and that this Board embraces new business. However, it is the obligation of this Board to see that Floral Park is developed with the same level of integrity it has always maintained.