

Board of Trustees Reports March 6, 2018

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mayor Longobardi asked for a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the tragic school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Mayor Longobardi also offered condolences on behalf of the Village of Floral Park to the Village of New Hyde Park and the family of Donald Barbieri on his passing. Donald was a Village Trustee for 18 years and a life-long resident of New Hyde Park.

The meeting opened with the Mayor inviting Floral Park Girl Scout Troop #1239 to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge, members of Troop #1239 made a presentation to the Board asking them for their support in having a stop sign installed at the corner of Miller and Plainfield Avenues which is in close proximity to Floral Park Memorial High School. This project will help them achieve their Bronze Award goal as well as ensure the safety of our residents. As this is a County road, the Girl Scouts asked the Board to support them by contacting the Nassau County Department of Public Works on their behalf. Mayor Longobardi and the Board of Trustees pledged their support in assisting Troop #1239.

Belmont Park – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that our residents are now aware via the Mayor's most recent Mayor's Message along with the story in the March 5th edition of *Newsday*, that on February 27th, the Empire State Development (ESD) released the Draft Scope for the Preparation of a Draft Environmental Statement. Although we were expecting this document to be released, and being an active participant acting in good faith in the process since last summer, we were shocked by a number of uses that were included in the now expanding project that until February 27th were not part of the project's scope. The three major items that were unexpected that now appear to be a part of the now ever-expanding scope are:

- The use of the North Lot. The lot abuts Floral Park-Bellerose School and a large number of houses;
- The placement of a 40,000 square foot electric substation directly adjacent to the Floral Park-Bellerose School yard;
- The height of the hotel is now double the height of the grandstand.

During the past few months, in the various discussions we have held with the ESD, these were not mentioned. In fact, with regard to the use of the North Lot, the ESD explicitly stated it would not be part of the project. In the ESD's September 8, 2017 response to our question about the use of the North Lot, they said: "It is not anticipated that the North Lot will be used to accommodate parking for development projects on Site A, Site B or Alternative Site A". Additionally, there was never a mention about a substation on the property, let alone near a school.

The ESD has scheduled two public hearings at the Elmont Public Library on March 22nd at 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm where residents can comment on the project and its potential impacts. Due to the significant impact not only the aforementioned items but the other 100 or so concerns that we have brought forth, Trustee Fitzgerald urged all residents to voice their concerns by speaking at the aforementioned hearing or to submit their comments in writing by 5:00 pm on April 6th. All relevant documents can be found on our Village website.

The April 6th deadline for comments is the bare minimum set forth. Due to the now expansive nature and scope of the project and the extremely tight timeframe (slightly more than three weeks) for our residents to read and digest the document, Trustee Fitzgerald respectfully asked the ESD to extend the deadline for comments and to hold an additional public hearing here in Floral Park. This is especially important as the Scoping Document and our input drives what topics and areas will be part of the study conducted during the environmental review process.

Fire Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo reported that our Fire Department has continued its strong focus on training throughout the last month. On the evening of February 21st, Rescue Company held an important drill for approximately twenty company members. Led and facilitated by Captain Martin Cook, Ex-Chief Ray Neufeld and Ex-Captain Ed Rothenberg, the topics presented included safety precautions for EMS personnel to observe when responding to aided cases who may have symptoms of the flu. Also of great importance was instruction and hands-on practice in administering life-saving procedures to firefighters in distress at the scene of fires and other emergencies. These important procedures will also be taught to other Fire Department staff members at future training sessions.

On the evening of March 1st, a full Department drill took place under the leadership of Assistant Chief Patrick McAllister, Ex-Chief Brian Naughton and their Committee. Classes were taught by our own expert Floral Park Fire Department staff members. Firefighter Bill Bedell, Jr. presented radio communications procedures and MAYDAY calls. Ex-Captain Joe Petrucci provided instruction and demonstrations with the Scott Air Pack, a firefighter's self-contained breathing apparatus. Ex-Chief Ray Neufeld and Ex-Captain James Dodson led the firefighters in practicing patient lifting, carrying and transport using the stair chair stretcher and the Titan soft stretcher to facilitate moving patients to the ambulance. Lieutenant Patricia Luger demonstrated and led hands-on practice in administering life-saving procedures to a firefighter in distress while removing bunker gear to provide further support. Captain Pat Conway demonstrated searching with the thermal imaging camera in areas with no visibility due to heavy smoke conditions.

Our Floral Park Fire Department is to be commended for the impressive expertise the members have developed through their years of training and experience, and their strong commitment to remaining current in fire and rescue science.

Library – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that the Library continued to host many interesting programs for all ages. To name a few: AARP Tax-Aide continues to offer tax help to residents every Tuesday through April 10th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm by appointment only. Please contact the Library at 326-6330 to make your appointment and come prepared with all relevant tax filing documents; AARP will be offering a Defensive Driver Course on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 10:00 am; and there will be a trip to the West Point Military Academy on Thursday, April 26th. Please check the Library's website www.floralparklibrary.org for details and a full list of classes being offered.

Police Department – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that during the month of February, the Police Department issued 164 moving violation summonses and responded to 130 calls.

The Police Department will be hosting an open meeting at John Lewis Childs School on March 12th at 8:00 pm where 'Active Shooter Situation at School' will be the topic. Our Police Department training, equipment and tactics will be presented.

The Floral Park Motel has had many incidents which have raised concerns. Yesterday a 'Multi-Agency Response to Community Hotspot' was conducted there. The Police Department, along with the Building Department and the Nassau County Fire Marshall's Office, conducted inspections and several notices of violations were issued. The owner was reminded that being a 'Good Neighbor' is vitally important to the Village.

Third Track Expansion Project – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that while we still have not been allowed to review the contract awarded by the MTA to the construction company, 3TC. We did have a meeting on February 26th where we met with engineers, contractors and community liaisons assigned to the Village pursuant to the previously executed Memorandum of Understanding. We have learned that surveying and borings for the bridges at South Tyson and Plainfield Avenues are currently being done. Engineers are looking at the Floral Park LIRR station and developing plans for the installation of the three elevators. It is expected that construction of the retaining walls and bridge work will commence sometime between mid-September and October. We will be meeting with the contractor to hear and decide on the finish materials of the retaining walls within the next two weeks. The Construction Team has agreed to provide us with a three-month advance notice schedule of any work anticipated to commence.

Recreation Center – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that the Recreation Center staff is currently preparing the center for the spring and summer programs. Fields are being prepped and the pool is being made ready for the return of the warm weather.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Recreation Center will take place on Saturday, March 24th starting at 9:30 am for children ages 5 years and under and at 9:45 am for children ages 6 years and over. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance to spend some time with the children and assist with the egg hunt. All are welcomed to attend. It is always a very enjoyable and fun event.

Trustee Chiara reported that Tiny Town, the heaviest used area at the Recreation Center, which is enjoyed by our children, their parents and often their grandparents, is in need of renovation. The Recreation Committee has been working on this project for the last year. They have been collaborating with a playground architect to come up with an updated design. The new design will feature three areas of play for the age groups 6-23 months; 2-5 years old; and 5-12 years old. The playground will have a natural look, new landscaping and plenty of shaded areas. Age appropriate play apparatus will be installed on a base of a synthetic safety turf. The design will provide parents with unobstructed views enabling them to keep a watchful eye on their children. It will be ADA compliant so that all can enjoy this new space. Site plans have been displayed and a Public Information Meeting was held to give residents the opportunity to share comments and concerns. We received nothing but encouraging support in favor of moving this project forward. Trustee Chiara said he and the Committee are very anxious to have the project approved so it can get underway so that families can enjoy it this upcoming season!

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi thanked Bob Ganun, who was in attendance at the Board Meeting, for all his work with St. Baldrick's. Floral Park is ranked number 7 for the most money raised for this organization in this country! Over \$2.5 million has currently been raised! What an outstanding accomplishment!

Mayor Longobardi thanked the Fire Department, the Department of Public Works, the Building Department and Recreation for all their input with regard to the capital improvement resolutions that were approved this evening. These necessary improvements will greatly enhance our Village.

Mayor Longobardi thanked Felix Procaccia for filming this evening's meeting.

On motion by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Pombonyo, and carried unanimously, Mayor Longobardi recessed the meeting at 8:55 pm.

The Mayor stated the Village Board Meeting would continue in his office with Department Heads after a brief recess and the public is invited to attend.
