

Inc. Village of Floral Park
January 15, 2019
Board of Trustees Meeting

At the start of the meeting, Mayor Longobardi swore in two new Police Officers, Michael Bauer and Mark Puleo. Congratulations and welcome to the Floral Park Police Department!

Department of Public Works – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that Superintendent of Public Works Stephen Siwinski has been working over the past few weeks with one of our engineering firms (LKB) to work on correcting various drainage issues throughout the Village. Last week, the engineers were able to determine potential solutions for the following areas:

- Emerson and Lowell
- Depan and West Hitchcock
- Crocus and Elm

It is expected that these projects may be able to start in the Spring.

Belmont Park – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that this past week, four public hearings on the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) for the Belmont Park Redevelopment Civic and Land Use Improvement Project were held at the Elmont Library. Over 100 speakers presented their comments. The overwhelming majority of speakers raised serious and various concerns that they have with the project and its ever-increasing scope. During Trustee Fitzgerald's speech on the last night, he mentioned the letters that were signed by our residents requesting that the ESD reduce the size of the project due to each of the following:

- So that the retail village as proposed will be eliminated;
- So that use of the North and East lots will not be required;
- So that the amount of additional traffic that will need to traverse Floral Park will not be a measurable increase from the existing substantial volume; and
- That a full-time, year-round train station will be constructed and operational at Belmont prior to commencement of events at the arena.

During the past week, we submitted close to 1,700 of these letters signed by our residents. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked his fellow Board Members and all the residents who took time out of their day to either attend, speak or sign one of the aforementioned letters.

Additionally, Trustee Fitzgerald said he would be remiss if he did not thank the members of the Belmont Task Force for their time in putting together the January 3rd Informational Session that was attended by over 200 residents, along with their continued diligence on this project.

The Village is in the process of drafting the written comments to the ESD. Trustee Fitzgerald urged all residents to submit any and all concerns that they have on the project and the DEIS. Comments must be sent to BelmontOutreach@esd.ny.gov prior to 5:00 pm on February 11, 2019.

Fire Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo welcomed and thanked 3rd Assistant Fire Chief Michael Saville for attending this evening's meeting and also for his service to the Fire Department.

Trustee Pombonyo provided an update on the proposed Belmont Park Redevelopment Project and its adverse impacts on emergency vehicle response times as last week's Empire State Development's public hearings unfolded. Chapter 11, page 72 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) states that there will be no significant adverse impacts on emergency vehicle response times because emergency vehicles "*can maneuver around and through congested areas when responding to emergencies because they are not bound by standard traffic controls.*" This is simply not true on Floral Park's two-lane thoroughfares, with one lane of traffic in each direction, and at our busy intersections crowded with pedestrians and traffic. When seconds count with emergency response times, the DEIS failed to consider the Village of Floral Park and other similar communities, relevant local data, expert opinions, and the current congested conditions already existing on our roadways. Conclusions relating to the lack of adverse impacts on emergency vehicle response times of this Proposed Project and others gave rise to many speakers, including expert attorneys and engineers, strongly voicing the opinion that the DEIS is inadequate and deficient. We extend appreciation to all in Floral Park who provided important testimony at the public hearings and in writing, and came together with impressive strength and determination in behalf of our beautiful Village.

And, back in Floral Park, you may have noticed a bright, new fire engine on our streets. That's the new Active pumper truck and our firefighters undergoing training in driving, operating and pumping. The final equipment is being installed on the new truck at this time, and it is expected to be in full operation at the Atlantic Avenue Firehouse in the next few weeks. More exciting details to follow.

Third Track Project – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that we have been made aware of work starting on Saturdays and Sundays prior to 8:00 am. We will be meeting with the MTA and the contractors of the project and we will discuss this situation.

Construction work is to begin at Plainfield and Terrace Avenues. This area is going to be used as a test case to see how long it will take to construct an area of wall. They will be able to see how much footage of the wall they can construct at one time. This work is to begin in about a month.

Some residents have received a score card who live 300 to 400 feet from the project. Please fill out the score card and send it back in. The 3TC contractor will be receiving a bonus based on the score card. Score cards can be picked up at Village Hall.

Police Department – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that it is an exciting time for the Police Department with the hiring of new Police Officers and promotions of other officers. The Police Commissioner hopes to see more traffic enforcement with regard to traffic blocking the box at Plainfield and Magnolia Avenues and at other busy intersections of the Village. There will also be additional police presence at Floral Park Memorial High School.

Trustee Cheng reported that from 2017/2018, the major crime rate in Floral Park fell 18%. Trustee Cheng thanked the department for all their hard work.

Recreation Center – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that registration was recently held for the next session of programs at the Recreation Center. There are still a few openings, so if you are interested, please call and inquire from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at 326-6336.

Before the ground froze, the Park staff, with the assistance from DPW, was able to complete two ball field renovations. Both fields 2 and 4 were finished. Field 4 will now be an intermediate field. This will provide a smoother transition for our Little League teams to move from our small fields to our major league field. Many thanks to our Park and DPW staff for completing this task.

The Floral Park Sports Association Hockey has completed another successful season. Thank you to their board and all the volunteers who spent a lot of time coordinating and running this program. It was a great season.

There will be a final walk-through in Tiny Town scheduled for next week. After any punch list items are addressed, Tiny Town will be opened. Trustee Chiara said he is sure our residents will be amazed at how well the project came out. Stay tuned for our grand opening.

With only 144 days left to our pool opening, plans are now in motion for the 2019 summer season.

New Resident Committee – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara said that for the new year, our New Resident Committee is preparing to send out welcome letters to our new residents. The letters will not only welcome them, but also invite them to either stop by Village Hall or schedule a personal visit to receive a welcome basket. The basket is filled with information and materials about our Village and local businesses. Thanks to all who contributed items and supplied us with these informational materials.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi echoed the comments of Trustee Fitzgerald. The Belmont Park Redevelopment Civic and Land Use Improvement Project is something that will affect the entire community. In the last few days, hearing were held on the DEIS. The community came together as they always do. Mayor Longobardi thanked everyone who attended the public hearings, spoke at the meetings and signed letters. The Belmont Park Task Force has really stepped up, especially Chairman Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald, who have spent many hours of their own time on this very important project. The Mayor also thanked the entire Board of Trustees, Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick and the entire Village Hall staff. Responses to the DEIS are being accepted until February 11th . We will continue to monitor this project for as long as it is needed and we will do everything we possibly can to reduce the adverse impact on the Village.

Mayor Longobardi said we are not the only ones who think we have a wonderful community – we have been ranked #2 by ‘Home Snacks’ as the best place to live in New York State. It is because of the spirit that exists in Floral Park that makes it such a great place to live.

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

The Village Board Meeting will continue in the Mayor’s office with Department Heads after a brief recess and the public is invited to attend.

On motion by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Pombonyo, and carried unanimously, Mayor Longobardi recessed the meeting at 8:35 pm.
