

Inc. Village of Floral Park
April 2, 2019
Board of Trustees Meeting

Belmont Park – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Approximately two weeks ago, the Village received a response to a FOIL request that we made to the Franchise Oversight Board back in October 2018 in which we asked for any and all correspondence that the Franchise Oversight Board had with NYRA. The documents that we received, which were after the deadline for comments to the DEIS, contained a 60+ page document from 2016 entitled Belmont Park Master Plan.

Upon reviewing the documents last week, Beveridge & Diamond, at the direction of the Village, sent a letter to the ESD stating:

1. Our disappointment by the revelation that there has been a **previously developed Master Plan** for redevelopment of Belmont Park, **without any input from the surrounding communities**, and that this Master Plan was **in existence, yet undisclosed**, prior to the commencement of this RFP process. Additionally, the aforementioned Master Plan is substantially the plan that was submitted and approved after the narrowly focused RFP process was completed
2. As it is clear that NYRA had plans that were interwoven with the Master Plan and they have stated that they will be making major renovations to Belmont Park, these two projects cannot be segmented or separated. Therefore, we stated in the letter that the DEIS process must start over to ensure the cumulative impacts of both New York Arena Partners and NYRA's planned improvements are studied in one complete DEIS.

Additionally what is probably most unfortunate is that to date there is still no statutory community advisory board for Belmont Park as there is a bylaw for both Aqueduct and Saratoga. There has been bipartisan support for such a Board but depending on the year either the State Senate or conversely the Assembly would not take such action as to pass what would amount to a few sentences into law. The Village has been asking for over a decade for such a Board and firmly believes that a Community Advisory Board will allow for smart and measured development at Belmont Park that would benefit the surrounding communities as well as preserving Belmont Park as a premier destination for horse racing as it has been for over a century.