

Inc. Village of Floral Park
June 18, 2019
Board of Trustees Meeting

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mayor Longobardi asked for a moment of silence in memory of Rosalie DiSunno, wife of our former Superintendent of Public Works and long-time member of the Floral Park Fire Department, Lou DiSunno; for Tom Kwiatkowski, a longtime member of our community; and Victoria Lippolis, a former Neighborhood Aide in our Police Department. They were all very present in our community and in many of our lives and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all their families.

Police Department – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that at times the Floral Park Police Department responds to various calls for service with wide ranging levels of severity. Trustee Fitzgerald assured residents that their number one priority is our collective safety. At times during active scenes, they may not be able to immediately disperse full information to the public as to what is happening. In the event that an incident rose to a level that the Village or a section of the Village's safety was in jeopardy, there are various plans in place to ensure that the proper official message is immediately and widely distributed as needed. With that said, we do ask for residents not to speculate on what may be occurring as it could lead to unattended and potentially disruptive consequences.

With regard to the activity on Jericho Turnpike on Monday, June 17th, there was a call into 911 with potential shots fired. This was found out very quickly to be unsubstantiated. Out of an abundance of caution, a decision was made to call in the Nassau County Police Department and close the surrounding area.

Please rest assured that our extraordinary men and women of the Police Department and its leadership are trained and continue to constantly reassess emergency response plans to keep us safe on a wide range of expected and more importantly unexpected events.

Mayor Longobardi commented that all kinds of information gets out on social media that is incorrect. Please make sure to get the facts correct so as not to create hysteria that may cause someone to get hurt.

Recreation Department and Pool – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo reported that the June 9th pool opening was an exciting and busy one. Each day, swimmers of all ages are beginning very active summer seasons in Floral Park. Adult volleyball and basketball have also gotten off to an exciting start. The Teen Luau Splash Party featured All Occasion DJ's and was enjoyed by over three hundred participants. Coming up soon are Saturday swim lessons beginning June 22nd; Residents' Day (when Village residents, who are not pool members, may pay the guest fee, use the pool, and enjoy the music of singer Ashley Caturano) on June 23rd; My Tot and Me, also beginning on June 23rd; Early Bird Swimming, beginning at 7:00 am on June 24th; and Night Owl Swimming beginning at 9:00 pm

on June 25th. Please check our Pool & Recreation book and the Village website for all the fun-filled individual, family and community activities scheduled at our Rec Center and Pool during our Summer 2019.

Conservation Society – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo reported on recent Centennial Gardens events enjoyed by the entire community. The annual Garden Party launched the Belmont Stakes weekend as over two hundred guests, many decked out in their horse racing finery including colorful, flowery fascinators and big hats, summery dresses and suits, enjoyed a beautiful evening and sunset, music, hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, music and conversation. David Hance, of the Hance Family Foundation, presented a plaque to President Dennis McEnery and the Conservation Society in appreciation of their years of hard work and dedication in beautifying the Gardens. David Hance added that FPCS and Centennial Gardens have helped make it possible for the Hance Family Foundation to present their renowned self-esteem programs to about 60,000 participants over the past ten years.

Centennial Gardens was also the setting for a summery evening mass led by Father Thomas Fusco and Deacon Larry Mulligan of Our Lady of Victory Church and the Floral Park Knights of Columbus. Several hundred worshippers enjoyed this special event and the beauty of nature at the Gardens.

Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo reminded all to celebrate summer in Floral Park and Stewart Manor by SHOPPING AND DINING LOCALLY. All are OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

Third Track Project – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that the work on the Third Track continues. Several issues need to be addressed with the MTA and the contractor. There is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 20th, to discuss these issues which include drainage from the retaining walls, an enhanced landscaping plan, South Tyson Avenue work and elevator work at the station which includes discussion about parking spaces under the railroad.

Airplane Noise Update – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng said we are lucky to have as the Village's representative on the Town-Village Aircraft Safety & Noise Abatement Committee (TVASNAC), Andrew Weiss. He recently met with David Johnson from the FAA regarding increased plane traffic over Floral Park. At the present time, work on runways 13 left and 13 right is being done resulting in increased use of 22 left and 22 right which goes directly over Floral Park. The work on the runways should be finished in the Fall. They also discussed other mitigation measures including different height approaches and glide slope methods of landing. Mr. Weiss was also named as co-chair of the Legislation Committee for the JFK Airport Committee for the New York Community Aviation

Roundtable. This committee is looking at which legislation Congress can introduce to provide relief.

Fire Department – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng said that on Sunday, June 30th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, the Floral Park Fire Department will be having the Active Truck Dedication Ceremony on Atlantic Avenue between Chestnut and Pine Avenues.

Building Department – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported on the progress on the sale and construction of Centennial Hall. The construction drawings are expected to be submitted by the end of next week. Once the drawings are approved, the sale of the building will be ready for closing, after which time the builder can begin construction.

Taco Bell, to be constructed on Jericho Turnpike, should have their building permits within the next two weeks. Once permits are issued, construction will be underway.

Our Building Department will continue to monitor the progress of both projects.

Library – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that on Sunday, June 23rd, the Library will be having its summer reading kick off for our children on the Library lawn. Erik the Reptile Guy is bringing live critters to teach our children the value of respecting nature. There will also be balloon animals and other crafts available for all that sign up to read this summer.

Please check the Library website for details on this event and for upcoming events being offered throughout the summer months.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi commented on Trustee Cheng's report regarding airplane noise. He said his telephone has been ringing constantly with complaints about the excessive airplane noise. Mayor Longobardi thanked Andrew Weiss and the Aircraft Safety & Noise Abatement Committee for all their hard work and dedication. Unfortunately, airplane noise increases when there is construction on the runways. There are a number of steps to help mitigate what is going on including changing plane elevations flight patterns. Co-chairing the Legislation Committee for the JFK Airport Committee for the New York Community Aviation Roundtable is another Floral Park resident, Tom Curry, who also works in U.S. Representative Kathleen Rice's office. We have two people from our Village representing us so we have a lot of hope that changes will be made in order for our residents to get relief from this ongoing problem.

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