

A Public Informational Meeting was held by the Village Board of Trustees and Belmont Task Force on Thursday, January 3rd at 7:30 pm in Village Hall Courtroom.

In attendance were: Mayor Dominick Longobardi and Trustees Kevin Fitzgerald, Lynn Pombonyo, Archie Cheng and Frank Chiara; Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick and Village Clerk Susan Walsh and Village Justice Doug Hayden.

The Belmont Task Force members in attendance were: Marc Mullen, Tom Tweedy, Frank Gunther, Stephen McAllister, Kevin Flood, Bernadette Smith, Dennis McEnery, Christy Reisig and Heather McClintock and liaison to fire department, Ex-Chief Mike Longobardi.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the residents that the Draft Environmental Impact State Statement (DEIS) for the Belmont Park Redevelopment Project was completed and that Empire State Development (ESD) is hosting public hearings on January 8th, 9th and 10th at the Elmont Public Library to discuss the burdensome impacts that Floral Park will endure should the scope of this project go forward.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald summarized to the nearly 250 residents the contents of the DEIS: an addition of a mega- mall and use of the north lot which was not in the original scope. He introduced speakers from the Task Force, who read the DEIS, and had prepared statements on topics that Floral Park should be cognizant since the DEIS scope has changed enormously.

Speakers included: Marc Mullen – President of West End Civic Association – use of the north lot is now being used for arena parking – he addressed noise impacts; Former Mayor Tom Tweedy covered infrastructure - water, co-gen power facility and drainage issues; Frank Gunther addressed transportation and NV5's Traffic Consultant's study; Pol Commissioner Stephen McAllister expressed the increase of construction and delivery trucks on local roadways, traffic patterns, additional 36,000 cars per month on roadways, pedestrian traffic and the burden the police and fire emergency personnel would encounter in trying to respond to 911 calls; Kevin Flood – stated that the project initially went from 43 acres of development to 160 acres - a 400% footprint growth of development- he estimated that there would 45,000 visitors per day or 6 million annually; residents Joseph Alfonsi and Michael Culotta asked the residents to please spread the word and to get as many family, friends and neighbors to attend and speak at the public hearings. Bernadette Smith stated that Floral Park's quality of life will be compromised severely and will reap all the negative impacts. The project needs to be scaled down.

Lastly Mayor Longobardi spoke and stated that it's also necessary to reach out to the elected officials. A list of elected officials and contact information, along with sample letters, is available on Floral Park's website – fpvillage.org. He thanked everyone for attending, especially the efforts of the Belmont Task Force, and reminded everyone to go and speak at the hearings next week too.

Questions were asked and answered. The meeting ended at 9:05 pm.

Susan Walsh, Village Clerk