

Inc. Village of Floral Park
May 21, 2019
Board of Trustees Meeting

Belmont Park – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that it recently came to our attention that there was a panel session at the Regional Plan Association Conference where an ESD member spoke about the Belmont project. The panel's primary discussion, which is available on video, was around major projects and community involvement. Although there were no new details about the project during the discussion, there was some very concerning comments made by the ESD member. Inclusive in the comments were statements made by the ESD member including one stating that people did not want to attend ESD public hearings who may have been in support of the project because *"they did not want to be screamed at by 300 angry people and literally it was so offensive the response they received."* This comment could not be further from the truth. The truth is that hundreds of residents, including a majority from Floral Park, took valuable time from their daily lives to attend these meetings and describe their very real, well thought, thoroughly researched concerns in a respectful manner as we have done many times before during this project and other projects. To describe those speakers and Floral Park in that manner is extremely upsetting. Being an active Floral Park resident and leader in the community, Trustee Fitzgerald knows the speakers aim and intention was solely to ensure that their legitimate concerns were placed on the record so that they could be properly studied and addressed.

Additionally, Floral Park was also called a well-organized opposition group and not excited about change. Although Trustee Fitzgerald said he appreciates being recognized as a well-organized group, he does not recall anyone being against the project as it was originally proposed which did not include the mall. Up until the DEIS was released, there was no mention either in writing or in any conversations with the ESD about there being a mall on the south lot. This change in scope brought new and cumulative effects that needed to be addressed. Having a number of significant legitimate concerns certainly does not fit the definition of opposition unless one fears that the concerns cannot be properly addressed. Trustee Fitzgerald mentioned in rebuttal to Floral Park 'not being excited about change' that when he spoke at the December 2017 ESD Board meeting when the project was conditionally approved, he specifically stated to the ESD Board that we will work on any project that will keep 'the way of life in Floral Park the same or be improved'. That still holds true.

By virtue of the comments made at this panel, Trustee Fitzgerald said it is beginning to seem like the ESD may be trying to discount the Board's and our residents very significant concerns and it troubles him that the narrative that they are trying to paint is to potentially delegitimize Floral Park's concerns in the public sphere.

Tangentially related, we recently reached out to the New York Islanders to attempt to have a meeting with Travis Williams, their recently named new President of Business Operations, only to be told by the New York Islanders that they cannot meet with us unless the ESD is involved.

The meeting was an attempt to allow for us to initiate a dialogue between neighbors so that both sides who may be living side by side could work together and understand each other's priorities and concerns. We do not see why the ESD would need to be involved in such a meeting as once the project is completed, ESD's involvement will be minimal. To date, neither the New York Islanders nor the ESD have reached out to us to set up such a meeting.

Please remain confident that the Village Board and Belmont Task Force will be vigilant and will advise residents when significant information becomes available including when the FIS (Final Impact Statement) is released and scheduled to be voted on by the ESD Board.

Recreation Department and Pool – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo announced that summer is coming at our Recreation Center and Pool. After unanticipated postal delays, the 2019 Pool and Recreation Book is being delivered today and in the next few days. The entire book is also posted on the Village website. Registration for Park and Pool paid programs is Wednesday, May 22nd, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and will continue for all programs on Saturday and Sunday, May 25th and 26th, and June 1st and 2nd, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Adult volleyball and basketball registration is Monday to Thursday, 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Staff members are getting the pool ready for the season. We all know pool season is here when we see the shrink wrap removed, the furniture being power washed, and the new flowers blooming.

All are invited to this weekend's special FDNY Lieutenant Michael Davidson Memorial Day Weekend Little League Tournament beginning this Saturday, May 25th at 9:00 am, opening ceremony at 11:00 am. Come to cheer on our Little League teams and honor this very courageous Floral Park hero.

Conservation Society – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo reported on the highly successful and well-attended Hance Family Fun Day and Races held at Centennial Gardens on Saturday, May 18th. The Gardens were at their most beautiful, thanks to the work of the Conservation Society volunteers, the Hance Family Foundation, Con-Kel Landscaping, the Floral Park Parks Department and Department of Public Works, local organizations such as the Rotary Club who donated their time and talent, several national companies who did their community service at the Gardens, and many of our residents, families and businesses. The day was beautiful in every way and lots of fun for all.

Coming up next is the Annual Garden Party on Friday, June 7th from 5:00 pm to sunset. All are invited for hor d'oeuvres, refreshments, music, conversation and a very enjoyable outdoor experience in our beautiful gardens at sunset. Proceeds go to the beautification of Centennial Gardens and the Conservation Society, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit. See the website at www.fpgarden.org for garden party details, beautiful photos and more information.

Also coming up, the next monthly weed-out. Join the Rotary Club and other community volunteers on June 1st at 9:00 am to donate your time and talents to beautify our Gardens.

Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo reminded all to continue to follow the OPEN FOR BUSINESS signs and SHOP & DINE LOCALLY in Floral Park and Stewart Manor during the third track construction project!

Fire Department – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that the ambulance is out for repairs for front end issues to the vehicle. Hopefully it will be back on Wednesday, May 22nd. Trustee Cheng thanked Ex-Chief Frank Wakely for his assistance in obtaining a loaner from the Village of Great Neck. It was greatly appreciated.

Memorial Day is on Monday, May 27th. Prior to the parade, the Floral Park Fire Department will have its annual inspection by the Village Board.

Third Track Project – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng said the retaining wall installation is starting this week, May 20th, at Plainfield and Terrace. We will soon have a chance to see the way the wall is going to look – it will be grayish in color and resemble brick work. There was a lengthy meeting on Monday, May 20th regarding the landscaping in front of the retaining wall and we are expecting details on that plan shortly. There was conversation about planting arborvitaes at the end of the street and at the triangle by Plainfield and Terrace.

The preliminary work on the elevators at the railroad station has been delayed as well as moving to the next phase of work at South Tyson. As per the Memorandum of Understanding, any lost parking has to be mitigated by 3TC. They must find additional parking for any lost spaces. As of yesterday, 3TC had not found any additional parking. They have been advised to contact the old Men on the Move to rent spaces from them. That is how we obtained the 37 spots when work was being done under the railroad for commuter parking. We have also informed 3TC to contact the owners of The Harrison to perhaps use their small lot across the street from the restaurant.

We have just been informed that a new sub-contractor was brought in to do vibration and noise analysis. We are not happy with the current placement of the monitors.

With regard to rodent control, we were informed that 1/3 of all bait stations used in the 10-mile project are in Floral Park.

Construction workers are parking on the street. This has been a bone of contention since the beginning of the project. We have a Memorandum of Agreement with the State and the MTA. However, Trustee Cheng said he was unaware that there must be an MTA employee present whenever there is work being done. 3TC employees have been directed not to park on our street. They will be ticketed if they do. The MTA is not a part of the parking prohibition. We will continue to have that argument with them.

As far as the staging of trucks in the Hanover, Roscoe, Fuller area, we are seeing trucks coming in before the first truck departs. This is prohibited. Trustee Cheng said he is going to give them until the end of the week to stop doing this. If it doesn't stop, he will inform the Police Department. This is an important issue – we cannot have truck traffic on our streets.

Mayor Longobardi commented on the enormous amount of time Trustee Cheng spends on 3rd Track issues making sure the contractors are doing what they are supposed to be doing. Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick is on the telephone constantly discussing this project and the Police Department and Department of Public Works are always involved and on site. Mayor Longobardi thanked everyone for their help.

Library – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that The Friends of the Library and our Library staff have a number of activities and events scheduled throughout the summer for the children and teens of our community. Currently they are seeking teen volunteers to assist with the summer reading club and other programs which will be held during the summer months. Volunteers may receive community service credit for their participation. There are also a number of upcoming adult programs scheduled.

There are informational flyers and brochures at the Library with the details on these events. Information on the Library and its upcoming events can be accessed on its website, www.floralparklibrary.org or by calling 516-326-6330.

On Thursday, May 23rd, the Library staff will be wearing red noses in support of Red Nose Day. Red Nose Day brings attention to the worldwide problem of childhood poverty. Once again, it is a fun day with a charitable message. Thank you to our Library staff for supporting this worthwhile cause.

West End Civic Association – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that the West End Civic Association will be holding its last meeting before the summer featuring invited guest Senator Anna Kaplan. Senator Kaplan, who represents our area, will discuss the latest developments on the proposed Belmont Arena and will take audience questions. The meeting will take place on Thursday, May 23rd at 7:30 pm at the Floral Park Pool Building. All Village residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Mayor's Message – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi said luck was on our side this year with regard to the weather on Saturday, May 18th – it was a beautiful day for the Hance Family Foundation Fun Day and Race. Mayor Longobardi thanked Warren and Jackie Hance and the entire Foundation for everything they do. This year, they presented the Village with a plaque as a thank you to the Village. The Mayor was very appreciative for the plaque but he said that Floral Park is a family and when something happens in the Village, everyone comes together. The Village and our residents support St.

Baldrick's Foundation, Liz's Day, Aiden Binkley Foundation, to name a few, and have helped to raise millions of dollars for these foundations over the years. Everyone is very generous and giving. That is what Floral Park is all about.

Mayor Longobardi asked everyone to come out on Monday, May 27th for the Memorial Day Parade sponsored by the Floral Park American Legion Post 334 – the weather is expected to be great! The Mayor thanked the American Legion for everything they do. The parade kicks off at 10:00 am in front of the American Legion on Elizabeth Street and ends at Memorial Park where there is a ceremony at approximately 11:00 am.

Mayor Longobardi commented on Trustee Fitzgerald's report regarding Belmont and the ESD and agreed that the comments made by the ESD member were very disturbing. We do not expect such comments from a professional governmental organization. The Village will continue to monitor the project and act in a professional manner while protecting our residents. Mayor Longobardi thanked Trustee Fitzgerald and the Belmont Task Force for the enormous amount of time they spend monitoring this project. There will be updates coming shortly. We are asking residents to pay attention to our website, email blasts and robo-calls that are sent. Once the new FIS (Final Impact Statement) comes out, the Village will formulate a plan. We will stay vigilant so that our Village maintains its quality of life.