

**SPECIAL MEETING – FLORAL PARK BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BUSINESS DISTRICT REVITALIZATION APPLICATION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 8PM**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 8PM at Village Hall, Firefighters Hall. The Mayor opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald, Trustees Lynn Pombonyo, Frank Chiara, Jennifer Stewart and Michael Longobardi, Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick, Building Superintendent Renee Marcus, DPW Superintendent Kevin Ginnane, Deputy Village Clerk Rosaleen Shea, and Research Assistant Darlene Lanza. Approximately 50+ attendees were also present.

The purpose of the meeting was to gain public, business district and resident input regarding the Village's Business District Revitalization Application to New York State to be submitted later this month. The Village's goal is to hopefully obtain a \$10mm grant to revitalize the three business districts: Covert Avenue, Jericho Turnpike and Tulip Avenue.

Mayor Fitzgerald made a power point presentation to the audience regarding the Village of Floral Park's Business District Improvement Project including a summary of the Village's work on this initiative. (See attached).

Highlights of the presentation in no particular order included:

1. Status of Business District Advancement Committee created in 2019
2. Submission of Round 5 NYS Downtown Revitalization Grant September 2021
3. Vision for Downtown(s) & Vision Statement
4. Public Support
5. Provide a Beautified and Unified Vision for Business Districts – "Know You Are in Floral Park"
6. Improve Pedestrian Safety and ADA Access, Inclusivity and Compliance
7. Transportation, Parking, Walkability, Landscaping, Ease of Access, Pocket Parks, Signage, Lighting, Uniformity
8. On-line Surveys for Public Participation (Over 700 received to date)
9. Public Participation Meeting(s)
10. Separately Partake in MTA-LIRR First Mile/Last Mile Initiative (Potential creation of bicycle, pedestrian and micro-mobility plan to mass transit to reduce carbon footprint)
11. Grant Requirement for Village Administrative Capacity to Implement the Business Plan if Awarded the Grant – The Mayor & Board feel very confident that Floral Park has the administrative capacity to successfully implement the initiative.

Highlights of feedback from the audience in no particular order included:

1. Consider native greenery in landscape designs that need less watering to survive in more arid conditions
2. Pocket Park improvements; consider a pocket park at Aspen/Raff location
3. Compare the Village application to other communities that were successfully awarded grants such as Amityville, Riverhead, etc.
4. Questions on properties that are vacant such as banks
5. Artwork on LIRR trestles
6. Rationale for DRI v NY Forward in application: DRI because of urban adjacency better fit for Village rather than rural parameters in NY Forward
7. Capitalize on new UBS Arena as an opportunity for dining, shopping downtown

8. What is competition pool of grants throughout the State
9. Update Link on website for survey – make paper copy available at locations like the Library, Civic Associations, Recreation Center: Village will follow-up and will extend the survey deadline to end of the week as well
10. Grant Writer – NV5 Consultants
11. County Road implications
12. Cleanliness; trash cans, sidewalks, facades: Mayor advised that Renee Marcus and Board are looking into local laws that provide for stronger requirements to provide for uniformity and cleanliness on facades, sidewalks and garbage disposal to ensure cooperation and/or enforcement

Deputy Mayor Lynn Pombonyo provided updates on properties on Covert Avenue and the Business Districts. She also shared her enthusiasm that this application is an exciting and positive step for the Village's businesses and residents and it is not a matter of "if" – it is "when" Floral Park" achieves this wonderful goal.

Mayor Fitzgerald advised everyone that the Village will publish the survey results on-line after they have culled it out. The Village will also implement, where possible, some ideas via "in-house" departments.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked the audience for their participation and exchange of wonderful ideas. He reiterated the confidence he felt in the Village's administrative capacity and that he too was excited for "when". He encouraged everyone to share the news with their neighbors, participate in the Civic Association meetings and assured all that the Village will continue to get the word out via E-news, on-line surveys and news at Village locations. More to follow.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 9PM.

Rosaleen Shea
Deputy Village Clerk

Attachment

/rcs 09/14/2022