

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
April 11, 2016

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor
Dia Costello, Councilmember
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Steve Matney, Councilmember
Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer
Matt Stiglitz, Councilmember (absent)

VISITORS: Jerry Bodlander, The Echo reporter
Aaron LaRocca, National Park Service
Kevin Brandt, Superintendent at C&O Canal National Historical Park
Patricia Barber, C & O Canal Trust
Warren Hansen, Office of Montgomery County Council Councilmember
Roger Berliner
Drew Morris, Office of Montgomery County Council Councilmember
Roger Berliner
Burr Gray, Cabin John Citizens Association
Aaron Hirsch
Renny Springuel
Edie Springuel
Blair Anderson
Gloria Levin
Raya Bodnarchuk
Mary Parsons
Emily Parsons
Mickie Simpson
Mark McCaffrey
Larry Helfin
Ritch Kepler
Brandon McDonald
Peter Vogt
Pamella Zilly
Ned Goddard
Dana Verkouteren
Pete Epanchin
Liz Donaldson (FSGW English Dance)
William Strang (FSGW English Dance)

Mayor Beers called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

C & O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

At the request of Mayor Beers, Kevin Brandt, Superintendent at C&O Canal National Historical Park attended the meeting to talk about lack of water in the canal. He indicated that the canal from the wide water area to Lock 6 does not hold water and, when filled with rain water, sink holes develop. Just above Carderock there is a section of “logwall” where the C&O Canal National Historical Park and DC Water are working to resolve structural issues related to the sewer pipeline. Within the next 3 weeks all vegetation along the base of the logwall will be removed. Then a laser scan of the 1,000 foot wall will be done to determine if the wall plays a role in supporting the pipe. Also, the canal liner needs to be reestablished. There are other areas of the canal that are failing or about to fail. The repair project is tentatively funded for FY2017 covering Locks 5 to Lock 22. This pending project won’t be enough to make the locks hold water. In summary, the challenge of re-watering the canal is great.

Jim Morrison, the transportation and environmental staff member of Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner’s office said he will get started right away on writing a letter of support in hope of securing TAP funding for canal improvements. He outlined the multistep process. 1. Write application 2. Write letter of support. 3. Funding. 4. Get designs done. Mayor Beers pointed out that of all the National Parks the C & O Canal is in the top 10 of most visited, a national treasure.

Patricia Barber, C & O Canal Trust, Director of Development, spoke about the mission of the Trust. The organization, founded in 2007, exists to support the Park Service and to engage the communities along the canal from Georgetown to Cumberland. She mentioned some innovative programs including; Towpath Forever (for specific maintenance projects). Canal Classrooms including Canal Quarters (rehabilitate lockhouses reflecting specific era of canal history, Canal Pride (volunteers doing maintenance, gardening, painting etc projects), Canal Discovery (learning about the canal and hidden gems online) and Canal Towns (helping small towns along the canals market their location for economic benefit.)

GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY REPORT

Aaron LaRocca provided the following report for George Washington Memorial Parkway, Glen Echo Park and Clara Barton National Historic Site.

Recruitment

A selection has been made for a permanent employee who will be duty-stationed at Glen Echo Park. This person will begin mid-April. Additionally, the GWMP has hired several seasonal park guides that will be doing programming along the North District, which includes GEP and CENHS.

Safety Concerns

United States Park Police informed the GWMP Superintendent that there have been no reported car clouts (break-ins) since January. There were a number of break-ins in the fall and winter in the Glen Echo Park parking lot closest to MacArthur Blvd.

Programs

Family Day at Glen Echo Park is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2016. Family Day is an annual kick off for the busy season at Glen Echo Park. The National Park Service will present interpretive programs about the history of the Glen Echo.

No update-On May 21st, in celebration of the Founding of the American Red Cross in 1881, the Park will host 2 performances of “Clara Barton, Red Cross Angel”, in Glen Echo Park’s Bumper Car Pavilion. The performances by Mary Ann Jung, a first person interpreter, will be held at 12 and 2 pm

Clara Barton Rehabilitation Project

Clara Barton National Historic Site is closed to the public for a two-part rehabilitation project. The site closed on October 3, 2015, and will remain closed for approximately one year. The Visitor Service staff is developing interpretive programs to educate the public about the site during the closure.

The rehabilitation project will be completed in two phases. The first phase, the roof replacement project is scheduled to be completed by July 2016. The original estimated time of completion was spring 2016. The second phase, the fire suppression system, will run concurrently. Originally the fire suppression work was to begin when the roof was replaced.

During the project there will be impacts to the area of the parking lot referred to as the dogleg. For the entire project, the parking spots in the dogleg closest to Clara Barton National Historic Site will be closed for a construction staging area. During the fire suppression construction the entrance road to the main parking lot, the small Clara Barton NHS parking lot and areas of the flat lawn will be closed.

Glen Echo Park Partnership Agreement

NO UPDATE- The National Park Service, Montgomery County and staffers from Representative Van Hollen’s office met to discuss the cooperative agreement between the NPS and the county that expires in Spring of 2017. The County is working on developing the starting framework of the agreement. The Superintendent of the GWMP is committed to involving the public in this process.

Following the report Mayor Beers announced that the Gala in the Park is May 14 and tickets are available.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING GROUP FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Motion 2016-68 was made by Councilmember Matney and seconded by Councilmember Costello to adopt the MOU agreement with Montgomery County to implement the cable franchise in Town and to adopt the MOU for the 2006 Verizon agreement. The motion was unanimously passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2016-69 was made BY Councilmember Matney to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2016 Official Hearing Two Vassar Circle pending the Town attorney be notified that page 120, line 18 should read “remit” rather than “agreement”. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion was unanimously passed.

Motion 2016-70 was made by Councilmember Matney and seconded by Councilmember Costello to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2016 Town Council meeting. Councilmember Stiglitz abstained from the vote since he did not attend the March 14 meeting. Motion was passed.

BUDGET HEARING DATE

Mayor Beers confirmed the Budget Hearing date of May 31, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. A meeting to adopt the budget will follow.

PRALINE RESTAURANT

Resident Aaron Hirsch asked that the Town support Praline Restaurant’s new endeavor at Glen Echo Park by temporarily allowing a promotional sign to be placed on the Town property. Councilmember Long voiced her concern about commercial signs and about setting precedent by allowing commercial signs on Town property. She pointed out that the Town has a long history of opposing commercial activity in the Town. (N.B. The existing commercial sites along Tulane and Oberlin are either grand-fathered or the result of the Commercial Transitional (CT) zone placed on that area of Town by Montgomery County over the Town’s objection.) Councilmember Matney said he would look into county regulations.

POST OFFICE

Councilmember Long announced the Glen Echo Post Office has exercised their option to renew their 5-year lease.

POLICE CITATION REPORT

Attached.

TOWN HALL USE

The issue of residents finding parking near their homes on Wednesday nights near Town Hall was discussed. Liz Donaldson of FSGW English Dance noted their group is making every effort to have their dancers (approximately 20 cars) park elsewhere.

Motion 2016-71 was made by Councilmember Matney to adjourn. Councilmember Stiglitz seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date