

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
September 12, 2016

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

VISITORS: Aaron LaRocca
 Martha Shannon, The Echo reporter
 Raya Bodnarchuk
 Aaron Hirsch
 Gloria Levin
 Emily Parsons

Councilmember Long called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT

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

Centennial Events

As part of the National Park Service centennial celebration the Park hosted a special event at Glen Echo Park on Saturday, August 27. Additionally, there was an event at Great Falls Park to celebrate the centennial and the 50th anniversary of Great Falls becoming a National Park Service Site. Both events were successful and were well attended.

Clara Barton Rehabilitation Project

The first phase of the rehabilitation project, the roof replacement project is nearly completed. The contractor for the second phase, the fire suppression system, has mobilized and has begun the process of securing some of the most sensitive historical features on the interior of the house. The National Park Service is still working on obtaining permits from WSSC for the fire suppression work and appropriate metering of the utility.

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 has developed interpretive programs to educate the public about the site during the closure.

Union Arch Trail

No update-The George Washington Memorial Parkway has partnered with Student Conservation Association to conduct trail work throughout the Park. The Trail Supervisor for the George Washington Memorial Parkway has tentatively scheduled the Union Arch Trail restoration

project this summer. The project is being vetted through the compliance process and should receive the most streamlined review allowed under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a categorical exclusion.

Pollinator Garden

No update- The GWMP, GEPPAC and hosted Deloitte Consulting in a volunteer day in June. Sixty employees from Deloitte accomplished many tasks around the park. One of their projects was to transform three ponds in the Glen Echo Aquarium into garden beds for native plants. The ponds were a safety hazard and breeding ground for mosquitoes. Park staff worked hard to complete plants that were not completed on the day of service. The interpretive staff at the park will work to improve the interpretive messaging for the Garden.

Glen Echo Park Partnership Agreement

In early September, a second draft of the Cooperative Agreement between Montgomery County and the NPS was sent back to the County for their review. The Superintendent is committed to some type of public involvement for the Cooperative Agreement.

In addition to the information above, Councilmember Long posed the following question. What can the Town do to recognize the National Park Service Centennial? Gloria Levin suggested a video about how Glen Echo residents use the park that is in their own neighborhood. She noted Chris Van Hollen would be a good speaker. Aaron LaRocca suggested we instead focus efforts on creating stewards of the park with an eye toward engaging youth as future stewards. He suggested this could be accomplished through group volunteer activities. Aaron LaRocca will speak to Emily Rogers, who handles facilities at the Park, for possible projects. The pollinator garden and the Crystal Pool were mentioned. Projects would be based on volunteer group size, skill level of the group and would have a volunteer appreciation component. Councilmember Costello volunteers to serve as point of contact. Aaron LaRocca also raised the issue of the Park playground. He noted the primary concern is safety of park visitors. He indicated there will be more information to follow. Councilmember Long also suggested the Town Council minutes written during the time when the Amusement Park closed and the land was threatened with the prospect of high rise development might be an appropriate gift for Park archives. Aaron LaRocca agreed that records and oral history would be great and appreciated.

POLICE CITATION REPORT

Attached.

POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

After a summer hiatus, the board reconvened September 7, 2016. At the meeting crime trends were discussed. On the whole, crime trends are down in our area. It was noted that an increasing number of delivered packages (ie. Amazon boxes) are being stolen from doorsteps. Councilmember Stiglitz mentioned a new monthly police program, "Coffee with a Cop", that begins September 21. This is an opportunity for citizens to informally chat with police community liaison officers. Ground has been broken on the new Police Station on Rugby Avenue in Bethesda. Expected completion is summer 2017. The next meeting will be November 2016. Following the advisory board report, the recent vehicle break-ins in Town were discussed. Councilmember Stiglitz restated the need to lock car doors and report any break-ins to the police.

An arrest has been made in the area. It is not clear if the arrest was related to recent thefts in Glen Echo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2016-82 was made by Councilmember Matney to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2016 Town Council meeting. Councilmember Costello seconded. Councilmember Stiglitz abstained. Motion passed.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO FLIGHT PATH FOR REGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT

Councilmember Matney, Councilmember Costello and Councilmember Long will attend the September 15, 2016 FAA Public Meeting to discuss proposed changes to the flight path. Councilmember Matney noted the document provided by the FAA was poorly written, maps were unreadable and some invalid assumptions were made. He will ask questions at the meeting and report back.

TOWN HALL USE

The date of October 31, 2016 was set for the Halloween party and the date of December 10, 2016 10:00 am – 11:30 am was set for the Holiday Brunch. The Town-wide yard sale will be October 22, 2016. Councilmember Long mentioned two upcoming programs presented by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW), one a vocalist, the other a quartet of singers from Ireland.

POSTMASTER RETIREMENT

Councilmember Long raised the following question. How best to honor the retirement of Post Master Yvonne Harrison who is retiring in late October. An article in The Echo and perhaps a gift or a reception in her honor was suggested.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Councilmember Matney raised the issue of electronic communication with residents. He specifically mentioned the unofficial listserv that is used by some (not all) residents. He asked the clerk to check with the web hosting vendor to find out if they have the capacity to host and manage listserves.

TOWN MAINTENANCE

Councilmember Costello reported Cooley sidewalk repair is ongoing. She also presented three proposals for exterior painting of Town Hall. After discussion,

Motion 2016-83 was made by Councilmember Stiglitz to accept the painting proposal from Royal Painting with the understanding that non-skid paint would be used on the rear steps. Councilmember Matney seconded. Motion passed unanimously. In tandem with the painting project it was suggested that a new weathervane to replace the existing slightly damaged weathervane be purchased and installed. Aaron Hirsh will collaborate with Councilmember Costello and Councilmember Long to select a weathervane.

PUBLIC SPACE

Discussion continued about the creation of a design for a Town flag. All were in agreement that the community needs to be involved in the process and parameters for public works must be considered. Gloria Levin suggested the council focus on more pressing matters such as the Town Ordinances (which she volunteered to support) and the status of the right-of-way agreement for 1 Vassar Circle. She also inquired about the chicken coop at 6206 Harvard Avenue. [It was reported that the hens were killed by a raccoon and the coop is empty.] Gloria Levin wanted to know why her suggestion about the new placement of the handicapped parking spot in Town Hall parking lot was ignored. Her suggestion was considered but the asphalt vendor determined the best spot for handicapped parking was the existing location.

Motion 2016-84 was made by Councilmember Costello to adjourn. Councilmember Matney seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date