

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
November 11, 2016

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

VISITORS:
Ron Bolt
Aaron LaRocca
Dan Spealman, The Echo reporter
Pranav Tandon , Marc Korman's Office
Emily Parsons
Chris White
Angela Hirsch
Matt McFarland
Gloria Levin
Edie Springuel
Renny Springuel

Mayor Beers 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.

Union Arch Trail

Work on the Union Arch Trail is complete. The George Washington Memorial Parkway partnered with Student Conservation Association to conduct trail work throughout the Park.

Clara Barton Rehabilitation Project

The first phase of the rehabilitation project, the roof replacement project is substantially completed.

The contractor for the second phase, the fire suppression system is proceeding with upgrading the fire detection and alarm. The WSSC permit has not been resolved.

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 more year. The Visitor Service staff has developed interpretive programs to educate the public about the site during the closure.

Glen Echo Park Partnership Agreement

No update- 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 park is awaiting comments and edits from the County. The Superintendent is committed to some type of public involvement for the Cooperative Agreement.

POLICE CITATION REPORT

Attached.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2016-88 was made by Councilmember Matney to approve the October 10, 2016 Town Council minutes as amended. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed.

TOWN HALL USE

The C & O Canal Association Board Meeting will be held December 4, 2016 and is open to the public. The Town of Glen Echo Holiday Party is scheduled for December 10, 2016.

TOWN MAINTENANCE

It was reported that the buttons on the Town Hall elevator aren't working. The Clerk Treasurer will call for service. The Clerk Treasurer also mentioned lack of response from asphalt vendor about small crack street repair, speed bump installation on Oxford Rd. and rain water diverting lip on lower Bryn Mawr Ave. Mayor Beers indicated Tom Cooley will do a walk through to determine next steps for ongoing sidewalk maintenance and repair.

COMPREHENSIVE RE-CODIFICATION

Ron Bolt, Town attorney, attended the November Town Council meeting to discuss the comprehensive code amendment process. Next month he will provide a working draft that will contain revisions and a few additions to the code of ordinances. Articles 4, 7, 16 and 16 will be removed because these ordinances are covered under Montgomery County code. The focus of the project will be to provide a cleaned up version of the existing ordinances, removal of outdated penalties and archaic language, including minor corrections and posting to the Town of Glen Echo website. Later substantive changes could be made. Following the December 12, 2017 Town Council meeting a fair summary will be available for resident review. The Town Council plans to vote on this issue at the January Town Council meeting.

PUBLIC SPACE

The status of a written agreement to document the private use of the public right-of-way with residents at 6103 Cornell Avenue, 1 Vassar Circle and 6108 Bryn Mawr Avenue was discussed. Ron Bolt indicated the property owners must obtain (at their expense) one survey of the entire public area denoting the right-of-way boundaries and where fences are located. Matt McFarland indicated he would fulfill this request right away.

Montgomery County Park and Planning approved the 2 Vassar Circle Re-subdivision plan with condition to street widening, parking plan and waiver of easement.

Matt McFarland presented a proposal suggesting that the Town purchase one of the 4 lots at 2 Vassar Circle for use as a Town park. He offered to donate necessary labor and materials to install hardscaping, landscaping and perhaps a small structure such as a gazebo. He suggested selling the two lots on the other side of Town to fund the land purchase. He speculated these lots could be re-subdivided and sold as commercial land which could easily fetch enough to cover purchase price of a lot on 2 Vassar. Mayor Beers indicated she would not object if the lot next to the Irish Inn were sold to the Inn. Matt McFarland will contact the Irish Inn and Aaron Hirsh to discuss possibilities. He will report back to Mayor and Town Council with some financial and timing estimates.

Gloria Levin raised the possibility of parts of the right-of-way being used for a rain garden. She will explore options and report back.

Councilmember Long noted the fence on the retaining wall, at the exit ramp from the Town Hall parking lot should have an extension to correct a potential safety problem. Councilmember Costello noted a dead tree would need to be removed in order to extend the fence.

C & O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION

Councilmember Long shared information about the newly reconstituted, 19 member, C & O Canal Federal Advisory Commission. She attended their first meeting but was dismayed that two new commission members were absent—and they were Montgomery County’s two members.

Motion 2016-89 was made by Councilmember Matney to adjourn. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date