

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
April 10, 2017

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

VISITORS: Sam Evans, Unity Disposal and Recycling
Miguel Saavedra, Elegant Recycling and Refuse
Aaron LaRocca, NPS
Katey Boerner, Glen Echo Park Partnership
Gloria Levin
John Lynch
Peggy Lynch
Richard Leggin
Dan Spealman
Bill Vincent, The Echo reporter
Emily Parsons
Mary Parsons
Edie Springuel
Renny Springuel
Aaron Hirsch (via telephone)

Nancy Long called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT

Aaron LaRocca provided the following report:

Clara Barton Rehabilitation Project

The contractor for the second phase of the fire suppression system is proceeding with upgrading the fire detection and alarm. Biweekly construction meetings have resumed and the WSSC permit issue has been resolved. Additionally the Park is taking on two condition assessments; one on the existing heating system and one on the rest of the house. Clara Barton National Historic Site is closed to the public for a two part rehabilitation project. The site closed on October 3, 2015. The Visitor Service staff has developed interpretive programs to educate the public about the site during the closure. Offsite interpretive programs have been very successful!

Hazardous Tree Project

In the upcoming weeks the GWMP hazardous tree removal project will be moving to the Clara Barton Parkway. Trees are identified as hazardous if they meet two criteria; they have a target and they have a defect. The NPS removes hazardous trees in order to ensure the safety of our

visitors. Due to Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive beetle that targets Ash tree species and the nearly 100% mortality rate, there will be a large visual impact to this work. In some areas of the park, Ash can make up about 50% of all the trees.

Glen Echo Park Partnership Agreement

In early February, The National Park Service received a draft of the Cooperative Management Agreement from Montgomery County. The draft is being reviewed by Regional Office and Park staff. The Park and the County will be working on an extension of the current agreement to allow for ongoing negotiations for the Cooperative Management Agreement. While this process is underway, the current agreement will be extended through June of 2018. The current agreement that expires in June 2017 allows for a possible extension of 5 years. The Superintendent is committed to some type of public involvement for the Cooperative Agreement.

The issue of the basketball hoop recently placed on Oxford Road was raised. It was noted that a conversation is needed about sports equipment in public streets throughout Glen Echo. Richard Leggin raised the ongoing issue of lack of parking on Oberlin Avenue. Aaron LaRocca acknowledged parking is an identified issue and Katey Boerner, Executive Director of Glen Echo Park Partnership (GEPPAC), said she will tell employees to park elsewhere and also encourage patrons to do the same.

POLICE CITATION REPORT

Attached.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2017-09 was made by Councilmember Matney to approve the March 13, 2017 minutes. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed.

TRASH AND RECYCLING VENDOR PROPOSALS

Sam Evans, General Manager of Unity Disposal and Recycling and Miguel Saavedra, Chief Executive Officer of Elegant Recycling and Refuse presented a joint bid to service the Town of Glen Echo. They currently handle Chevy Chase Village and Somerset trash removal and have also worked in the past with Kensington. The company would have a specific crew service Glen Echo each week with real-time customer service capabilities via email and text. The company references were contacted and were glowing. Waste Management has been invited to present at the May Town Council meeting.

GLEN ECHO PARK PARTNERSHIP

Katey Boerner, Executive Director of Glen Echo Park Partnership, thanked the Town for the \$2,000 contribution and reported that the Town will be honored at their May gala in recognition of their shared history. She encouraged residents to attend this “Celebrate History in our Backyard” event. She also reported that Richard Cook, local historian, will give a Glen Echo Park Legends lecture on May 6, at 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Town residents are invited free of charge. She also mentioned the 97th season of the carousel will open April 29 on “Carousel Day”.

POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

The next Police Advisory Board meeting will be in May.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long noted several uses of Town Hall by Town residents.

COMPREHENSIVE RE-CODIFICATION OPEN MEETING

An open meeting for all residents will be held April 24, 2017, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. for the public to provide input about possible changes to the Town's ordinances.

WASHINGTON GAS FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Counsel for Washington Gas requested an extension of the franchise agreement, granted in 1968 and expired in 2008, to operate in the Town. This agreement, granting a utility franchise to Washington Gas Light Company was introduced at the March meeting and a summary was distributed to Town Residents.

Motion 2017-10 was made by Councilmember Costello to adopt agreement as amended by Town attorney, Ron Bolt. Councilmember Long seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

FLAG

In light of the upcoming Town election and change of administration, it was decided the Town Council will discuss the issue of a Town flag at the May meeting. Councilmember Long stated she sees no need for an official Town flag; residents can fly flags on their own properties if they so desire.

1 VASSAR CIRCLE

Aaron Hirsch reported by speaker phone about his idea to exchange his entire (unsubdivided) Vassar Circle property for the Town-owned lots behind the Irish Inn. It is very early days in this complex issue with more to follow over the months ahead. At the moment, the most critical issue involves the zoning of the lots and if they can be used for CRT.75, low intensity commercial use. Richard Leggin noted if the Town is considering this option we should seek the highest and best offer. John Lynch, Vassar Circle resident spoke about this being an opportunity to make the Town even better with the possible addition of a Town park which could be sold if needed for a rainy day. The Town Council awaits specifics from Aaron Hirsch and will consult with the Town attorney about possible next steps.

COUNCILMEMBER MATNEY

With this Council meeting, Steven Matney completes his term of office and will not seek re-election. Councilmember Long thanked Councilmember Matney for his 12 years of dedicated service and noted how much he has contributed to the well-being of the Town. Meeting attendees joined the chorus of praise noting his diplomacy, patience and personal growth. Mayor Beers has served the Town since 1992 and plans are underway to recognize and thank her for her 24 years of exceptional leadership.

Motion 2017-01 was made by Councilmember Long to adjourn. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

Willem Polak, Mayor

Date