

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
May 8, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Willem Polak, Mayor
Dia Costello, Councilmember
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Steve Matney, Councilmember
Dan Spealman, Councilmember
Matt Stiglitz, Councilmember
Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS: Aaron LaRocca, NPS
Gloria Levin, The Echo reporter
Edie Springuel
Renny Springuel
Aaron Hirsch
Ellen Leary
Susan Grisby

Willem Polak called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

ELECTION RESULTS/SWEARING-IN

Councilmember Spealman and Councilmember Stiglitz were sworn-in by Mayor Polak, who was sworn-in at the Montgomery County courthouse May 2, 2017. Susan Grisby indicated that she will resign from Glen Echo Board of Supervisors of Elections. Susan was thanked for her 20 years of service. The next scheduled election is May 2019.

As reported by the Glen Echo Board of Supervisors of Elections the May 1, 2017 election results are as follows:

Mayor

Willem Polak (received 102 votes)
Renny Springuel (received 44 votes)

Council member

Blair Anderson (received 54 votes)
Shannon Kraus (received 40 votes)
Martha Shannon (received 32 votes)
Dan Spealman (received 78 votes)
Matt Stiglitz (received 81 votes)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT

Aaron LaRocca provided the following report:

Clara Barton Rehabilitation Project

No update-The contractor for the second phase, the fire suppression system, and 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!

Improved Visitor Services

The Visitor Service staff is working to improve the audio visual services in the Glen Echo visitor area that can interpret the history of Glen Echo Park.

Park staff is starting a project to do a temporary, movable exhibit for Clara Barton National Historic Site that will rotate to different venues in the community.

Hazardous Tree Project

The GWMP hazardous tree removal project has begun along 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. In order to conduct this work safely, there will be a number of Saturday lane closures.

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

No update- 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 Management Agreement.

The issue of the basketball hoop recently placed on Oxford Road was raised. Mayor Polak has reached out to the owner to discuss removal. If the hoop is not voluntarily removed, the NPS will deem it abandoned and seize it.

POLICE CITATION REPORT

Attached.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2017-12 was made by Councilmember Spealman to approve the April 10, 2017 minutes as amended; Debbie Beers years of service as Mayor was changed from 25 years to 24 years. Councilmember Long seconded. Motion passed.

POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

Councilmember Stiglitz attended the Police Advisory Board meeting May 4, 2017. At the meeting it was noted that the County has stated a preference for using a community-based electronic bulletin board called “Next Door” to keep County residents informed. Councilmember Stiglitz said this user friendly communication tool is neighborhood specific. He will explore options for the Town of Glen Echo and will report back. Councilmember Stiglitz also reported that he had made arrangements with the Montgomery County Police for a temporary electronic sign, to be staged at the MacArthur Blvd. crosswalk, pointed southbound to remind drivers to stop for pedestrians. There was further discussion about next steps for long-term solutions. A suggestion was made by Aaron LaRocca to explore installation of a rapid flashing beacon as a very effective way to change the driving behavior of motorists. Councilmember Stiglitz will discuss with the Police Commander as well as with contacts at the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. Resident, Ellen Leary, volunteered to assist. The County is poised to launch a summer anti-theft program. Recent crimes in the community include pharmacy thefts at Rite Aid Potomac Village and Rite Aid Westbard and purses stolen from shopping carts at the Sangamore Safeway. He also reminded all to keep auto and home doors locked. Matt Stiglitz will invite Commander Falcinelli to the September Town Council meeting. The next meeting will be held in September.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long noted several uses of Town Hall by Town residents. The Town picnic is scheduled for July 16, 2017, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

TOWN MAINTENANCE

The clerk reported that the water stained ceiling tiles in Town Hall will be replaced May 22, 2017. Street sweeping has been scheduled for late May. Renny Springuel volunteered to work with sidewalk vendor to evaluate a corner-to-corner evaluation of sidewalks and mentioned raising the curb in some places may be warranted. Ellen Leary raised the issue of pet waste removal and underscored the importance of pet owners to clean up after their dogs. Mayor Polak reported that the soon-to-be new owner of 31 Wellesley Circle has applied for a permit of demolition.

FLAG

The issue of adopting an official Town flag was discussed. It was decided that there are more pressing concerns and the issue was tabled.

TRASH AND RECYCLING VENDOR PROPOSALS

Motion 2017-13 was made by Councilmember Stiglitz and seconded by Councilmember Costello to accept the proposal from Unity Disposal/Recycling Elegant Recycling and Refuse. Motion was unanimously approved.

BUDGET HEARING

The Budget Hearing will be held Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall. Copies of the draft budget will be delivered to residents no later than May 11, 2017. Some suggested projects include new carpeting for Town Council chambers and a solar powered flashing LED stop sign on Oxford Road.

MC QUIET SKIES COALITION

Councilmember Costello will invite resident Kristen Roddy to an upcoming Town Council meeting to share information from the Montgomery County Quiet Skies Committee. Mayor Polak will discuss legal matters related to this topic with Ron Bolt, Town attorney.

COMPREHENSIVE RE-CODIFICATION OPEN MEETING

An open meeting for all residents will be held August 8, 2017, 7:00 pm for the public to provide input about possible changes to the Town’s ordinances 11, 13 and 17.

Motion 2017-14 was made by Councilmember Stiglitz to adjourn. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

Willem Polak, Mayor

Date