

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
June 12, 2017

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

VISITORS: Gloria Levin
Aaron Hirsch
Matt McFarland
Phyllis Fordham
Raya Bodnarchuk
Mary Parsons
Emily Parsons
Patty Sieber
Alec Graham

Mayor Polak called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT

Going forward Aaron LaRocca will not be able to attend every Town Council. He did not attend the June Town Council meeting but provided the following written report:

Glen Echo Parking Lot Exit Lane

A National Park Service engineer completed drawings to make the change the current Glen Echo Park parking lot exit lane from an exit only lane to a two way exit, entrance lane. More research is needed to locate those plans. The current exit lane is not configured to allow for two way traffic. Once the plan is located it will be put into the NPS project management system.

Post and Chain Barriers

A work order has been submitted to replace the current post and chain barrier between Oxford Road and Glen Echo Park. They will be replaced by large boulders. These boulders will prevent parking and remove the unsightly, safety issue that exists. This work will be completed as we enter the fall/ winter.

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!

Hazardous Tree Project-

No update 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.

Mayor Willem Polak reported he met with Aaron LaRocca and Alexcy Romero, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway. They discussed ongoing issues surrounding Oxford Road including traffic control measures and park entrance/exit. Mayor Polak is exploring speed bump and signage options for Oxford Road and will report back.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2017-15 was made by Councilmember Stiglitz to approve the May 24, 2017 Budget Hearing minutes. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion 2017-16 was made by Councilmember Stiglitz to approve the May 24, 2017 Budget Meeting minutes. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion 2017-17 was made by Councilmember Spealman to approve the May 8, 2017 Town Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

Councilmember Stiglitz reported that he met with the chief engineer from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation and with a staff member from Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner's office at the MacArthur Blvd. crosswalk at 7:45 am to observe pedestrian and driver behavior, with focus on middle school students crossing MacArthur Blvd. to get to the school bus stop. Over the months ahead there will be formal observation as well as a traffic study. The earliest a solution will be discussed is Fall 2017.

POLICE CITATION REPORT

Attached.

TRASH AND RECYCLING VENDOR

Mayor Polak reported he concluded negotiations with Elegant Recycling and Refuse with service beginning July 1, 2017.

TOWN HALL

New carpet will be installed in Town Hall chambers and office on Saturday, June 17, 2017.

WEED CONTROL

Mayor Polak reported that Holly Shimizu is researching and will make a recommendation about non-toxic weed control options for the Town. Councilmember Costello volunteered to assist.

TOWN DIRECTORY

Alec Graham and Patty Sieber gave an update about the ongoing Town Directory project. Discussion ensued about the merits of a hardcopy vs. an online directory. The Echo will include an update reminder and residents will be able to approve/edit a proof at the July 16, 2017 Town picnic.

TREE REMOVAL ON PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Gloria Levin raised the issue of large trees (2 dead and 1 walnut tree encroaching on a silver maple) recently removed from the section of the public right-of-way that adjoins 1 Vassar Circle. Matt McFarland attended the March 2017 Town Council meeting and was given verbal permission to remove trees. The pending tree removal was reported in The Echo but was not included in the March 2017 Town Council meeting minutes. Matt McFarland has offered to plant another tree in the open spot.

The lease agreements to document the private use of the public right-of-way and associated properties (6103 Cornell Avenue, 1 Vassar Circle and 6108 Bryn Mawr Avenue) is under review by Tom Helf, an attorney representing the home owners. There are 3 core issues: easement vs. revocable license, homeowner insurance of the land, and amount of notice required to revoke license.

INITIATIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Councilmember Spealman presented a rough draft version of responsibilities for which there will be a point council person that Town residents can go to for specific issues. Including:

- County/State government coordination
- Town Hall Maintenance
- Glen Echo Park
- Town Hall Scheduling
- Fire
- Police
- Maryland Municipal League
- Expenditure tracking/budget
- Social Events
- Streets and Sidewalks
- Snow Removal
- Garbage
- PEPCO
- Washington Gas
- Water/Sewage

Initiatives include various ideas for town improvements suggested by the council and/or town members. For each initiative, there would be council member(s) who would liase with a citizen-chaired committee of townfolk and/or outside experts. The councilmember would be responsible for identifying the citizen chair and/or the committee members. (If there were no one on the council to take the lead and/or not enough citizen interest to form a committee, the initiative would not proceed at this time.)

- Town Hall Systems and Usage
Improved processes and/or upgrades in: phone system, maintenance, oversight on usage, marketing, cleaning, facilities, reservations system, etc.
- Constituent Outreach
Could include household assignments for councilmembers, NextDoor, SMS surveys, occasional town-wide meetings, automated phone messages from the mayor/council, etc.
- Vassar Circle
- Reviving Chautauqua
Possibly a series of events that take advantage of citizens' expertize – not unlike the stargazing effort Emily just arranged. This was something suggested during the campaign, but not otherwise discussed as of yet.
- Green Space/Livable Town Improvements
This would include a wide range of possible improvements to investigate and consider (without committing to them in advance) such as more functional uses of the various green spaces around town (dog run, picnic tables), and canal access (admittedly a

moonshot, but there's some interest there). Many townsfolk have interesting ideas. The committee would look into the feasibility of these improvements and make recommendations to the council on whether or not they're worth pursuing

- Improving Town Infrastructure
Includes crosswalks, speedbumps, sidewalks, roads and storm drains
- Outside Funding Opportunities
This would entail a comprehensive look at whether there are national/state/foundation funds that the town can access; includes especially Open Space playground funds mentioned by Debbie; requires coordinating with other committees; committee would be responsible for drafting applications for funding only with Council approval to proceed.
- Improving Parking/Traffic
- Ordinance/Charter Review
- Archival Materials/Records Organization
- Website Functionality Improvement

Motion 2017-18 was made by Councilmember Stiglitz to adjourn. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

Willem Polak, Mayor

Date