

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 10, 2013

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Steve Matney, Councilmember
Matt Stiglitz, Councilmember (absent)
Nicole Fraser, Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS: Phyllis Fordham, The Echo Reporter
Matt McFarland, Town Resident and owner of McFarland-Woods
Rene Springuel, Town Resident
Raya Bodnarchuk, Town Resident
Matt Costello, Town Resident
Brent Agnew, Town Resident
Bonnie Whyte, Town Resident
Nick Lambert, Town Resident

Mayor Beers called the meeting to at 8:05 p.m.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

No representative from GEP¹ was available to attend the meeting. Council noted that during the Folk Festival of the previous weekend not as many cars were parked on MacArthur Boulevard however some festival attendees did park in Town.

Councilmember Long noted that in the program brochure for the Washington Folk Festival, FSGW thanked the Town of Glen Echo, Glen Echo Town Council, and the residents of Glen Echo and Bannockburn. Councilmember Long said it was not clear to FSGW that they should direct their request to the Town or Christy Hughes (owner of The Irish Inn) for the use of the area between Tulane and Oberlin Avenues for the tent set-up.

Councilmember Long noted she was told that GEPPAC would be able to review the NPS documents relative to Montgomery County's shared-use path planned to go through the park. She intends to ask Mr. LaRocca (former Acting Site Manager of GEP/CBNHS) if the Town may also see those documents. Councilmember Long noted that the project appears more environmentally destructive than originally conceived with the removal of multiple trees, recirculation of water in the creek during construction. Councilmember Long also believes that the County should come back to address the drainage issues along the current bike path on MacArthur Boulevard between Princeton Avenue and Oxford Road and Harvard and Princeton Avenues.

¹ Abbreviations in this document include CBNHS (Clara Barton National Historic Site), FSGW (Folklore Society of Greater Washington), GEP (Glen Echo Park), GEPPAC (Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture), MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), NPS (National Park Service), WG (Washington Gas) and WSSC (Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission).

RENOVATION OF THE BAPTIST ANNEX

Matt McFarland, Town resident and owner of McFarland-Woods Construction, notified that during the renovation of the former Baptist Annex on the corner of University and Harvard Avenues, he may need to park vehicles on the no parking side of the street; however, he hopes to notify Harvard residents in advance and it should be intermittently over the course of a month. He said that the insulation, plaster and walls were tested for asbestos and paint for lead; all tests were negative. The tongue-and-groove siding (currently under the vinyl siding) has not been tested yet but could potentially have lead. Councilmember Long asked Mr. McFarland to use Oxford Road for heavy vehicles and loads. Mr. McFarland also noted that during the underpinning of the foundation, it will be necessary for a concrete pump truck to come over four non-consecutive days. This could cause traffic to be impacted, especially for post office customers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2013-14 Council approved May Council meeting minutes with no changes.

Council asked Clerk-Treasurer Fraser to edit the May Budget Hearing and Meeting Minutes for approval at the July Meeting.

MOU ON RADCLIFFE LANE

Councilmember Stiglitz drafted two memoranda of understanding (MOU's) between the Town and Alec Graham/Madeline Carter of 7106 Radcliffe Lane for the paving of a parking pad on Town property adjacent to their property. The first MOU proposed the Town would pay for none of the paving costs; the second MOU proposed that the Town would pay an undetermined portion. Councilmember Matney noted that the 19x40 square foot space seemed quite large and he wanted to double check the size before proceeding.

Bonnie Whyte reported that there is a significant sewer line under the Hewitt property's edge proceeds under Wellesley Circle.

TOWN HALL RENTAL POLICY

Mayor Beers reported that she had received a phone call from Mary Kempner (non-Resident) who asked to rent the Town Hall for a wedding in April and was told that the Town Hall was reserved for Town resident use on the weekends. Councilmember Long said that there has been a policy of keeping weekends for residents. Mayor Beers said that she was not aware of this policy and, given the tight budget situation, she would like the Town Hall available on the weekends for non-Town Residents. Councilmember Matney suggested that Town Hall rentals be closed to non-residents two to three months before the date. Mayor Beers said it is difficult to plan large events only two to three months in advance. Councilmember Long said she believes that non-residents have requested to rent the Town Hall because the rent is low relative to other options. Councilmember Long said she would like to raise the rents for private non-resident use; rental fees were last raised in 2001. Mayor Beers suggested one weekend or two

weekends a month for non-resident use. Councilmember Long said that she would like to see a consistent and sensible policy; town residents should be given priority because residents pay a municipal tax that in part goes toward the maintenance of the Town Hall. Councilmember Matney noted that more non-resident use of the Town Hall will bring more traffic and potential conflict with the post office customers if used on a Saturday morning. Councilmember McCaffrey said that although he is likely to be the greatest impacted by any changes to town hall rentals (he lives next door to the Town Hall), he supports non-resident weekend use. Phyllis Fordham suggested valet parking to alleviate traffic and raising the fees. Councilmember Matney said that he would be in favor of removing the “resident sponsor” option for Town Hall rentals. Mayor Beers said she would contact Ms. Kempner and tell her that she may rent the Town Hall on a weekend. [N.B. – Councilmember Long prepared comments regarding rental to the Town Hall attached to the minutes.]

WASHINGTON GAS

Mayor Beers sent Jack Higgins of WG a list of questions, dates and an agenda early last week and said she had not heard back from him. Ms. Fordham asked if the feasibility study was underway. Mayor Beers said that she was not sure, she was willing to send a check for the survey but Mr. Higgins had not responded.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Raya Bodnarchuk asked for more time to edit the proof of the image that she created for the Town’s recycling bins.

Councilmember Long noted that the Town will need new letterhead stationery with the addition of the Town’s email and website address when re-ordered.

Resident Bonnie Whyte reported that in front of her residence and 42 Wellesley Circle a main sewer line is leaking (water bubbles up) and it may need to be fixed by removing part of the street. Mayor Beers urged Ms. Whyte to call WSSC directly.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Fraser
Clerk-Treasurer

Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date

Attachments: Councilmember Long’s comments on Town Hall Use
Police report