

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO  
COUNCIL MEETING  
August 11, 2014**

ATTENDANCE:       Debbie Beers, Mayor  
                      Nancy Long, Councilmember  
                      Steve Matney, Councilmember  
                      Mark McCaffrey, Councilmember  
                      Matt Stiglitz (absent), Councilmember  
                      Marlyss Bloom, resident, filling in for Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS:           Aaron LaRocca, NPS Supervisory Park Ranger  
                      Phyllis Fordham, resident  
                      Edie Springuel, resident  
                      Renny Springuel, resident  
                      Raya Bodnarchuk, resident  
                      Bonnie Whyte, resident

Mayor Beers called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm.

**GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT**

Aaron LaRocca provided the following updates:

Montgomery County and the National Park Service have corrected the tree mitigation issue and construction has started on the shared use path as it crosses NPS land (Clara Barton National Historic site and Glen Echo Park). Peter McCallum, National Park Service, Right of Ways Ranger will be the main point of contact and will monitor construction. Park Service is trying to push all construction on upper lot to be completed by October.

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) began construction in early August to rehabilitate the Hall of Mirrors. Updates will include ADA and fire code compliance as well as HVAC installation.

Limited parking along Tulane and Oberlin Avenues has been a result of congestion caused by GEPPAC summer employee parking. The Executive Director of the partnership sent an email requesting summer staff park in the main lot. Summer camps are winding down. Eventually, there may be a need to explore two hour parking in that area.

The Clara Barton NHS rehabilitation project is in the public comment phase; work is expected to begin in fall/winter 2014.

A yet to be approved position of the George Washington Memorial Parkway reorganization would allow for a formal arrangement between the Park and the Town. There was discussion of recent incidents in the parking lot as well as encounters with a homeless person. National Park Service was made aware of broken windows in cars. Aaron LaRocca requested National Park Police to increase patrols.

**TOWN YARD SALE**

Raya Bodnarchuk reported that the annual Town Yard sale will be on Saturday, October 18 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm with assistance from Forest Yang, Diana Hudson-Taylor and Maire Hewitt. She requested

approval (I) use of the town hall as back-up location in case of rain, (II) place Washington Post classified ad for approximately \$31.99, (III) place ad on Craigslist, (IV) print flyers for distribution to houses in town and public spaces, (V) hang banner, and (VII) promote in The Echo. Mayor Beers also suggested promoting via Bannockburn and Cabin John list serves/bulletins.

### **RODENTS**

Raya Bodnarchuk alerted the Council that she has spotted rats under her porch and in front and back yard. She has stopped leaving bird seed out and contacted two professionals regarding extermination. One professional applied poison but it did not eradicate the problem. She assumes other town residents are experiencing the same problem. Mayor Beers suggested a piece in The Echo about not using open bird feeders. Aaron LaRocca commented that the Park has not seen an increase in rats or mice population but it is an ongoing concern. A suggestion was made by Mayor Beers to talk to staff at Wild Bird Center about their use of feeders.

### **TOWN PARKING**

Concerns were raised about vehicles parking on both sides of Town streets. A temporary solution of ordering and installing parking signs was discussed. However, it was noted that it would be difficult to get the police to enforce parking restrictions because Town signs are not recognized as “official”.

### **LARGE TRUCKS ON TOWN STREETS**

Renny Springuel expressed concern about the large trucks coming through town. One truck knocked wires down and internet service was lost for a house on Wellesley Circle. It was noted that the Town does not have authority to enforce, as this must be handled by Montgomery County. Mayor Beers thinks it best to address this issue when the gas lines have been installed. Renny pointed out an extra large truck with a fork lift was parked on the bottom of Bryn Mawr with the back four tires on University Avenue where the sink hole had been repaired. He also provided picture (from 3 – 4 weeks prior) to show indentation in the road.

Renny recommended the Town get back to the engineers to see if the Town wants to put a weight limit restriction on Town streets. Mayor Beers questioned as to how this would be enforced as police will not take action with a second-hand report.

Renny also requested that the gas company put a larger lift in the sidewalks (to help with water issues) as opposed to the gradual slope that was previously in place. Mayor Beers indicated the gas company is only required to replace what was previously there but the Town could make this request. Councilmember Matney indicated the desire to keep costs down.

Renny suggested a smaller, temporary speed bump be installed on Oxford Road (in front of/behind) existing speed bump as a temporary fix. Mayor Beer indicated the snow plows would dislodge the plastic speed bump and mentioned this as an engineering issue.

Renny reported a construction truck went the wrong way on Vassar Circle and drove onto the sidewalk at the bottom of Vassar and Cornell. The sidewalk popped back up after the truck drove over it.

Renny suggested the sealing of cracks on the streets to stop water seepage as an inexpensive alternative to save the roads. Mayor Beers indicated that this has been done in the past.

Mayor Beers indicated road repairs as part of the gas line project will start at Oxford Road and move west.

Renny indicated a pumper truck had blocked Wellesley Circle and they did not post required “road closed” signs. He expressed concern that the fire department would not have been able to access Councilmember Matney’s house if they went to Wellesley from University (as opposed to Cornell).

Renny proposed that residents should present building plans to Town Council. Mayor Beers said residents can be encouraged to do so but that it would take up too much time at Council meetings. However, if there is an issue with building plans it can always be discussed at Council meetings.

Renny mentioned a rumor about meetings with Aaron Hirsch regarding Vassar Circle. Mayor Beers indicated meetings have yet to take place.

### **37 WELLESLEY CIRCLE**

Bonnie Whyte indicated construction closed down Wellesley Circle August 11 for a couple of hours without notice or the required signage. Bonnie has repeatedly talked to workers on the job site. She indicated trucks have been driving over sidewalks on multiple occasions. Mayor Beers didn’t recall this ever being an issue in the past but said the contractors are not taking the roadways into account in their planning. Councilmember Matney and Mayor Beers suggested calling the non-emergency police number if residents encounter blocked streets.

Bonnie indicated that the sides set backs on 37 Wellesley Circle don’t appear in compliance. Councilmember Matney indicated side setbacks are a total of 15 feet (7’ one side and 8’ on the other side). Mayor Beers will call the permitting department and have them come out.

Renny mentioned a cement spill that ran down Wellesley Circle into a drain above the Parkway. Raya indicated another cement truck spill occurred on Harvard Avenue (but the spill was cleaned up). Mayor Beers will send Tom Manion, architect for the project, another email and talk to the County. Councilmember Long has also talked to Tom Manion since she was the former owner of this property.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 2014-27** Council approved July Meeting Minutes as amended with one typographical change. Councilmember Matney made the motion; Councilmember McCaffrey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Malmgren

Clerk-Treasurer

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Deborah Beers, Mayor

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Date