

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
January 12, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor (via conference call)
 Nancy Long, Councilmember
 Steve Matney, Councilmember
 Mark McCaffrey, Councilmember
 Matt Stiglitz, Councilmember
 Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS: Aaron LaRocca, NPS Supervisory Park Ranger
 Ellen Leary, reporter for The Echo
 Emily Parsons, resident
 Mary Parsons, resident

Nancy Long called the meeting to order at 8: 04 p.m.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Aaron LaRocca provided the following updates (his written report follows):

Montgomery County Shared Use Path

The project to construct the shared use path and rehabilitate the trolley trestle was scheduled to end November 15, 2014. The NPS conducted a walkthrough mid-December 2014. After the walkthrough, Peter McCallum, GWMP right of way ranger, shared the park's concerns with Montgomery County project leader. There were a number of issues with the path. Blueprint specifications were not followed leading to potential safety issues. The NPS is working with MOCO to resolve those issues. As part of the walkthrough NPS discussed the town's concern about the delineators along MacArthur Blvd. We have yet to hear a response from the county.

Clara Barton NHS Rehabilitation Project

The house's last day of interpretive operations inside Clara Barton NHS will be Sunday, January 18, 2015. This will allow the staff to prepare the site for construction. The house is scheduled to be closed for up to two years. The rehabilitation project will replace the failing roof structure and fire detection and suppression system.

The compliance process for the roof replacement and fire suppression is still ongoing. NPS is working with a contractor to develop an Environmental Assessment (EA). The compliance process is scheduled to be completed this winter. The construction will not begin until the compliance process is completed. NPS is currently reviewing a draft EA. Once the review is complete and edits are made the EA will be made available for public comment.

George Washington Memorial Parkway Reorganization

Job announcements have closed for Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Staff (Assistant Superintendent), and District Ranger positions. The certificates for the jobs were extended through the first part of January. If a selection is not made before the certificates expire, the jobs will need to be re-announced. Hiring officials are currently conducting interviews.

Aaron LaRocca, acting North District Ranger will continue to serve as liaison to town council. Todd Alexander is serving as the Acting Deputy Superintendent in January and February. He shared the news that he and his wife are expecting a baby, due January 19. Good wishes were extended by all Council members.

C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Discussion ensued about the National Park Service proposal to raise park entrance fees. Conversation focused on Great Falls Park in Maryland possibly raising entrance fee from \$5 to \$15 per car, with length of stay extended from three days to seven days. Money generated would go to enhancing the visitor experience. A public meeting will be held February 5, 2015 to discuss the proposal to charge fees to use any portion of the C&O Canal path outside the District. This issue of enforcement was discussed.

After discussion about the removal of stanchions (due to construction) on MacArthur Blvd. it was determined the Town would draft a letter asking the delineators be returned.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2015-33 Council approved December Meeting Minutes with a few typographical changes. Councilmember Matney made the motion; Councilmember McCaffrey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

GLEN ECHO PARK PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (GEPPAC)

Motion 2015-34 Councilmember Matney made a motion that the Town of Glen Echo to donate \$2,000 to the GEPPAC. (Note: the Town prior year's donation was \$2,300). There was no second. Thoughtful discussion ensued about examining the relationship the Town has with GEPPAC and what the Town gets out of it. Mayor Beers suggested a \$500 reduction from last year's figure.

Motion 2015-35 Councilmember Stiglitz made a motion that the Town of Glen Echo donate \$1,800; Councilmember McCaffrey seconded. Motion approved.

POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

Councilmember Stiglitz reported on the January 7, 2015 police advisory board meeting. There were no significant crime trends to report. Most crime statistics were down. The number one crime problem in our area is thefts from automobiles. The Echo will republish a plea for residents to lock their car doors and to report to County and Park Police should they be victims of this (or any) crime. The commander indicated he will have his officers drive through Town more frequently. The next Police Advisory Board meeting will be held in March.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long reported on resident use highlighting the January 18, 2015 memorial gathering for Carlotta Anderson. The elevator operation has been sporadic. Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer will contact elevator contractor to ensure smooth operation.

Councilmember Long mentioned the Glen Echo Post Office no longer sorts mail onsite. Noting the “local” mail slot for mail service within the Town has been removed. She raised the question, is this a precursor to the Glen Echo Post office disappearing or perhaps Glen Echo losing our zip code? She reminisced that the mail used to come to Glen Echo via street car and noted from a historical viewpoint it would be sad to lose the post office. Mayor Beers commented the Post Office has two more years on the lease and is not listed on the closing report.

Councilmember Long reported furnace issues (no heat and no hot water) during the first “cold snap”. She called Condon and Reed for an aspect of the work that Condon and Reed did not handle. She noted that a representative of Condon and Reed called later to find out if service had been ultimately restored. Griffith was called and service restored by 10:30 p.m. that night. Stacey Malmgren, Clerk Treasurer indicated proposals from oil to gas furnace conversion project are forthcoming.

SNOW REMOVAL

Mayor and Council members shared their impressions of the Town’s new snow removal vendor, Rasevic. Overall, the comments were favorable. It was noted that snow removal at the top of streets feeding onto MacArthur Blvd. needs more attention. There was also discussion about how best to treat snow events vs. ice events. Some street damage (thought perhaps to be snowplow related) was discussed. It was noted that out newly paved streets should be able to withstand routine maintenance and that we are within our street pavement warranty period.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Malmgren

Clerk-Treasurer

Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date