

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
January 11, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor (absent)
Dia Costello, Councilmember
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Steve Matney, Councilmember
Matt Stiglitz, Councilmember
Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS: Ellen Leary Edelman, The Echo reporter
Aaron LaRocca, National Park Service (absent)
Julie Lull
Chris Lull
Mary Parsons
Emily Parsons
Gloria Levin
Edie Springuel
Renny Springuel

Councilmember Matney called the meeting to order at 8: 06 p.m.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT

Aaron LaRocca was not in attendance but provided the following written report. Councilmember Matney noted highlights.

National Park Service Budget

The FY 2016 funding level is the highest funding level ever for the NPS, excluding supplemental appropriations. NPS' FY 2016 total of \$2.85 billion is a nine percent increase (\$236.7 million) over FY 2015. For 2016, Congress increased support for the NPS Centennial Initiative by \$132.9 million. The following are line items that could impact Glen Echo Park and Clara Barton NHS;

- An increase of \$5 million for the Centennial Challenge to provide a total of \$15 million in federal matching funds to leverage partner donations for projects and programs.
- An increase of \$8 million to fund Centennial seasonal employees.
- An increase of \$2 million to fund Centennial Volunteer Ambassadors while also raising the Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) appropriations cap to \$7 million.

Congress also passed a five-year transportation bill, allocating \$268 million for NPS roads, bridges, and transportation systems. The allocation reflects an increase from \$240 million in FY2015 to \$268 million in FY2016, followed by increases of \$8 million per year reaching \$300 million in FY2020.

Safety Concerns

The Park, GEPPAC and United States Park Police are working to address two safety concerns that seem to be on the rise in the last few month; car clouts (break-ins and speeding in the upper parking lot. Park visitors are reminded to leave nothing of value in their car. Additional signage will be added to the upper lot. In FY15 there were 7 thefts from autos in the Glen Echo Parking Lots. Cars continue to speed through the upper lot to avoid the backup at the three way stop at the Clara Barton Parkway. This is a safety concern for those who use the bike path, park visitors and Irish Inn patrons. The park is working to implement a speed hump plan to discourage using the trolley right of way as a high speed cut through.

GEPPAC is also going to provide a proposal for a gate system. The upper lot is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers but managed, through a Memorandum of Understanding by the National Park Service.

Recruitment

Shortly, on USAjobs, the Federal Government's recruitment and hiring website, the Park will announce a recruitment action for 3 permanent interpretive rangers. One of those rangers will be duty stationed in the North District and Glen Echo Park.

Clara Barton Rehabilitation Project

NO UPDATE- Clara Barton National Historic Site is closed to the public for a two part rehabilitation project. The site closed on October 3, 2015 and will remain closed for approximately one year. The Visitor Service staff is developing interpretive programs to educate the public about the site during the closure. The rehabilitation project will be completed in two phases. The first phase, the roof replacement project is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2016. The second phase, the fire suppression will begin once the roof replacement is completed. During the project there will be impacts to the area of the parking lot referred to as the dogleg. For the entire project, the parking spots in the dogleg closest to Clara Barton National Historic Site will be closed for a construction staging area. During the fire suppression construction the entrance road to the main parking lot, the small Clara Barton NHS parking lot and areas of the flat lawn will be closed.

Glen Echo Park Partnership Agreement

NO UPDATE- The National Park Service, Montgomery County and staffers from Representative Van Hollen's office met to discuss the cooperative agreement between the NPS and the county that expires in Spring of 2017. The County is working on developing the starting framework of the agreement. The Superintendent of the GWMP is committed to involving the public in this process.

6104 BRYN MAWR AVENUE

Chris and Julie Lull presented plans for the renovation of their house. They are not seeking a variance from Montgomery County as they do not plan to add height or width to their home. They plan to add a bay window, replace the roof and do a first floor interior renovation. During construction they will have a dumpster that will be located in their existing driveway. Expected start date late January 2016 with completion estimated in three months.

RECYCLE BINS

Renny Springuel volunteered to locate axel cups for the recycling bins behind Town Hall and will work with Councilmember Matney to assemble a few bins for new residents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2015-63 was made by Councilmember Stiglitz to approve the December 14, 2015 Town Meeting minutes as amended. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed.

POLICE CITATION REPORT

The police will step up their traffic control efforts especially surrounding weekend dances at Glen Echo Park.

POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

Councilmember Stiglitz reported the Police Advisory Board met January 7, 2016. With the exception of sexual assaults, all crime statistics in our region have decreased over the last year. Councilmember Stiglitz noted the FBI has changed classifications of sexual assault and since our numbers are small this change of classification skewed the sexual assault statistics. Theft from automobiles remains the County's biggest problem. Councilmember Stiglitz reminded all to lock cars, not to display valuables, and to report break-ins. If multiple break-ins are reported an undercover team may be sent to investigate. Cell phone while driving enforcement will continue as will school bus stop operations. Councilmember Stiglitz noted that the groundbreaking for the new police station in Bethesda will be February 2016 with completion expected in 2017. The next Police Advisory Board meeting will be in March.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long reported January 2016 Town Hall booking to be quite busy with an event almost every weekend. The majority of events were booked by Town residents. The Royal Scottish Dance Society used the Town Hall in early January and took very good care of the floor as they all wore soft sole shoes. She also noted 2015 revenue from the English Country Dance totaled \$3,900. Councilmember Long received an interesting request from the Neighborhood Mediation Group for a Lunar Meditation Workshop in February 2016. She will seek additional information concerning this event.

TOWN MAINTENANCE

When the Town Hall parking lot is repaved Councilmember Long suggested the word "SLOW" be painted on the northeast corner of the parking lot, i.e. the entry to the exit ramps, this word had been added there but was covered up by re-paving. She also raised the elevator replacement issue because the elevator needs almost constant repairs and too small for some wheelchairs. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Matney will contact Maryland Municipal League for guidance and Councilmember Costello will consult with Town resident JoAnne Murray (architect with specialty in American with Disabilities Act compliance) for ballpark price. The need for exterior painting of Town Hall was discussed. Also discussed was the need for ironwork repair around Town. Councilmember Costello will explore and report back.

GLEN ECHO LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Councilmember Costello presented an idea from Town resident Alexis Feringa about erecting a "little free library" (take a book/lend a book) in one of our Town parks. There was general agreement that this was a good idea for the book-box library. Councilmember Long noted that some monitoring would be necessary to ensure that no unwanted objects would be left in the book-box. Councilmember Costello volunteered to be the librarian. Councilmember Stiglitz will explore some plans and may build it. A suggestion was made that this small structure resemble the Town Hall cupola.

STREECAR RIGHT-OF-WAY

Councilmember Long stated the need for a planting record detailing quantities and types of trees planted by PEPCO on October 23, 2015.

C&O NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Councilmember Long noted January 8, 2016 as the 45th birthday of the C&O National Historical Park. All agreed that this park which extends along the Potomac River from Georgetown, D.C. to Cumberland, MD is a tremendous resource that is such a gift to our Town.

DONATION TO GEPPAC

The decision was made to revisit the GEPPAC donation request in February when Mayor Beers will be present.

GOLDSBORO PROJECT

Councilmember Long noted that there will be an additional meeting about the proposed Goldsboro project. N.B. - The plan calls for 19 town houses to be built on the property which now contains one dwelling. It will be necessary to re-align the stream that runs through the property.

WESTBARD SECTOR PLAN

Councilmember Long will review the Westbard Sector Plan to determine if the project would have any impact on our Town. N.B. – The Westbard area is part of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan, as is our Town, hence the reason for Park and Planning to request any comments we may have.

Motion 2015-64 was made by Councilmember Stiglitz to adjourn. Councilmember Costello seconded.

Meeting was adjourned 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

Steve Matney, Councilmember

Date