

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
May 9, 2016

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

VISITORS: Bill Vincent, The Echo reporter
Marc Korman, State Delegate
Ken Hartman, Executive Director of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Regional Services Center
Burr Gray, Cabin John Citizens Association
Kyle Tarnovisci, MCDOT
Philip Westcott, MCDOT
Kyle Liang, MCDOT
Mike Guiliano, STV Inc.
Aaron Hirsch
Renny Springuel
Edie Springuel
Blair Anderson
Gloria Levin
Raya Bodnarchuk
Emily Parsons
Pete Epanchin

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

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Recruitment

A selection has been made for a permanent employee, Janet Greene, who will be duty stationed at Glen Echo. This person will begin mid-April. Additionally, the Park has hired several seasonal park guides that will be doing programming along the North District. Previously, Ranger Greene work with the North District as a seasonal ranger.

Union Arch Trail

The Trail Supervisor for the George Washington Memorial Parkway has tentatively scheduled the Union Arch Trail restoration project for July. The project is being vetted through the compliance process and should receive the most streamlined review allowed under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), at categorical exclusion.

Programs

Family Day at Glen Echo Park was a success. While visitation was down, presumably because of the weather, the National Park Service presented stationary interpretive programs about the history of the Glen Echo. The same program will be offered during Washington Folk Festival.

No update- On May 21st, in celebration of the Founding of the American Red Cross in 1881, the Park will host 2 performances of Clara Barton, Red Cross Angel in Glen Echo Park's Bumper Car Pavilion. The performances by Mary Ann Jung, a first person interpreter, will be held at 12 and 2 pm

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 July 2016. The original estimated time of completion was spring 2016. The second phase, the fire suppression system will run concurrently. Originally the fire suppression work was to begin when the roof was replaced.

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.

STATE DELEGATE

Marc Korman, Maryland House of Delegates, representing District 16 (Bethesda, Cabin John, Glen Echo, parts of Potomac, Rockville and Chevy Chase) introduced himself to the group. He spoke briefly about over-crowding at Bannockburn, Pyle and Whitman and citizen concern about Westbard development.

FRIENDS OF CLARA BARTON COMMUNITY CENTER

Burr Gray, President of Friends of Clara Barton Community Center, asked for Glen Echo residents to get involved with this group that supports the Clara Barton Community Center. They are looking for new people and energy to help with projects such as Bingo Night, Grateful Shred, Haunted House, and the Craft Fair.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Ken Hartman, Executive Director of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center returned as promised with the DOT team (led by Kyle Liang) to present traffic simulation results for three different traffic light scenarios previously presented at the March 14, 2016, Town Council Meeting (see below). The Intelligence Community Campus Bethesda, traffic improvements committee suggested traffic light installation. All options include a left turn lane on the northbound side of MacArthur Blvd. The multi-use path along MacArthur Blvd. would be narrowed to accommodate this turn lane. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mayor Beers is concerned the traffic light installation will create traffic problems including back-ups on the Clara Barton Parkway and is skeptical that traffic lights are required. Councilmember Matney requested information be provided regarding intersection (throughput not waiting time.) DOT wants to work with the Town and have the support of Mayor, Council and residents. However, they can implement scenario B without Town cooperation and have the traffic light installed within a year.

Scenario A— close Oberlin in both directions and install a traffic light controlling MacArthur and the Clara Barton Parkway.

The location of the proposed project is where the off-ramp from Clara Barton Parkway enters MacArthur Boulevard south of Oberline Avenue.)

Scenario B – keep Oberlin open with a traffic light controlling MacArthur, Oberlin and the Clara Barton Parkway.

Scenario C – make Oberlin a one way street into Glen Echo, with a traffic light controlling MacArthur and Clara Barton Parkway.

Councilmember Long asked whether an environmental impact study is required for this project in the form of an environmental assessment or the more rigorous environmental impact statement. The answer from the group was “no”, neither is required.

Councilmember Matney will serve as point of contact for the Town to facilitate further discussion.

Mayor Beers noted the flower beds installed last year by DOT Highway are full of weeds look terrible.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2016-72 was made by Councilmember Matney to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2016 Town Council meeting as amended. Councilmember Stiglitz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

Councilmember Stiglitz indicated thefts from automobiles remains top crime trend. In June there will be an awareness period to remind all to lock cars and leave valuables out of view.

BUDGET HEARING

Mayor Beers confirmed the Budget Hearing date of May 31, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. A meeting to adopt the budget will follow.

ANIMAL CONTROL

At the request of the Town, Montgomery County is in the process of enforcing the ordinance (at 6101 Harvard Avenue) that forbids backyard chickens.

Home owner, Blair Anderson attended the meeting and asked that the Mayor and Council rescind the request and draft a Town ordinance that would allow chicken ownership. The Town attorney had indicated that calling off the enforcement could jeopardize future enforcement requests of Montgomery County.

Motion 2016-73 was made by Councilmember Costello to direct the Town attorney to request that Montgomery County cease enforcement of the animal control ordinance for chickens in the Town of Glen Echo. Motion failed for lack of second.

Motion 2016-74 was made by Councilmember Matney to adjourn. Councilmember Stiglitz seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date