

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
December 12, 2016

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

VISITORS:

 Ron Bolt
 Aaron LaRocca
 Bernie Edelman, The Echo reporter
 Aaron Hirsch
 Edie Springuel
 Renny Springuel

Mayor Beers called the meeting to order at 8:22 p.m.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT

Aaron LaRocca provided the following report for George Washington Memorial Parkway, Glen Echo Park and Clara Barton National Historic Site.

Clara Barton Interpretation

The ranger staff for the North District is working hard to promote offsite interpretive programs about Clara Barton for Women’s History Month in February. The programs are very adaptable and can meet any the group’s needs, but the themes are focused around Ms. Barton’s experience during the Civil War.

Clara Barton Rehabilitation Project

The first phase of the rehabilitation project, the roof replacement project is substantially completed.

The contractor for the second phase, the fire suppression system, and is proceeding with upgrading the fire detection and alarm. The WSSC permit has not been resolved.

Clara Barton National Historic Site is closed to the public for a two part rehabilitation project. The site closed on October 3, 2015. The Visitor Service staff has developed interpretive programs to educate the public about the site during the closure.

Glen Echo Park Partnership Agreement

No update- In early September, a second draft of the Cooperative Agreement between Montgomery County and the NPS was sent back to the County for their review. The park is awaiting comments and edits from the County. The Superintendent is committed to some type of public involvement for the Cooperative Agreement.

Councilmember Matney raised the issue of flooding at the upper parking lot entrance to MacArthur Blvd., where the apron meets the bike path. He noted it is especially dangerous with cold weather coming and potential for ice to form. Aaron LaRocca said he would mention this issue to his counterparts at the US. Army Corps of Engineers, who manage that section.

POLICE CITATION REPORT

Attached.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2016-90 was made by Councilmember Matney to approve the November 14, 2016 Town Council minutes as amended (corrected typo). Councilmember Long seconded. Councilmember Stiglitz abstained as he was absent for the November meeting. Motion passed.

TOWN HALL USE

Mayor Beers thanked all involved for a lovely holiday brunch. Councilmember Long noted increased use of Town Hall in January and February primarily by Town residents.

TOWN MAINTENANCE

The clerk reported that the Town Hall exterior lighting issue had been resolved and the copula leak repaired.

COMPREHENSIVE RE-CODIFICATION

The Town Council introduced an ordinance to recodify and amend the Town of Glen Echo code. The ordinance would reaffirm the code in its entirety, with the deletion of Articles 4 (Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control), 7 (Fire Prevention), 15 (Public Safety), and 16 (Bicycle Registration). These articles would be deleted because the Town Council finds that these subjects are adequately regulated by the County. The Ordinance would amend enforcement provisions and penalties to no longer declare certain violations to be punishable by imprisonment; to establish a default fine of \$100 for a municipal infraction; to allow abatement by the Town at the cost of the violator; and to allow violation to be prosecuted as municipal infractions rather than misdemeanors, at the Town's discretion. The ordinance would restrict parking during a snow emergency along the north side of University Avenue, instead of the south side as the county code provides. The ordinance would make other amendments to delete unnecessary provisions, correct typographical errors and to clarify existing provisions. A hardcopy copy of the amended document will be available for review at Town Hall and will also be posted to the Town's website. Residents will receive a flyer indicating link to Glen Echo's website to review an online version of the document. There will be a public hearing at the January 9, 2017 Town Council meeting.

POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

Councilmember Stiglitz attended the November meeting of the Police Board. The number one crime in our area continues to be theft from automobiles. Package thefts are on the rise. The next meeting will be held in January/February. A resident mentioned to Councilmember Stiglitz that cars are not stopping at the crosswalk at Macarthur Blvd. and Princeton Ave. Officers will attempt to have more of a presence in that area, especially during prime school transportation hours.

GLEN ECHO PARK PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

After reviewing the last three years of giving history, **Motion 2016-91** was made by Councilmember Stiglitz for the Town of Glen to renew support with a \$2,000 donation to be dispersed early 2017. Councilmember Long seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN FLAG and PARKING SURVEY RESULTS

Aaron Hirsch discussed Town Flag and Parking Survey results. Excerpts from The Echo, December 2016 follow:

Fifty-one people responded to an online survey about a Town flag and parking issues. While more than 70 percent of respondents supported some type of Town flag, they were evenly split about how to go about choosing one.

The big winner on parking was “I don't think there's a parking problem.” It's still to be determined how the Town Council will respond to the survey or otherwise move forward on either of these issues.

Should Glen Echo have an official town flag?

- Yes (adopt proposed flag design). 37.25%
- Yes (with a town-sanctioned flag design competition). 35.29%
- I don't support a town flag. 27.45%

How would you like parking problems addressed?

- Install new, county compliant parking signs around town. 11.76%
- Install additional green and white script no parking signs and pay a Town “code enforcement officer” to write tickets. 19.61%
- Do not install any new signs and pay a Town “code enforcement officer” to write tickets. 9.80%
- I don't think there is a parking problem. 58.82%

Aaron Hirsch suggested and Renny Springuel supported holding a competition to develop a design for a Town flag. A committee would be assembled and the Town Council would vote whether or not to go ahead with the project and if so, select a winning design. Aaron Hirsch suggested referring to flag criteria from the Flag Association. Councilmember Stiglitz suggested

we have further discussion when we have full Town Council present. At this stage, the Council will focus on two key questions. In principle are we open to the concept of a Town flag? If so, how best to move forward?

PUBLIC SPACE

Councilmember Stiglitz relayed follow-up information from Matt McFarland about two issues. First, the easement and associated properties (6103 Cornell Avenue, 1 Vassar Circle and 6108 Bryn Mawr Avenue) survey to document the private use of the public right-of-way will soon be underway with expected completion by the end of December 2016.

Second, the proposal for the Town to purchase a parcel on 2 Vassar Circle for a Town park is still in early stages. A lot price is needed from Aaron Hirsch and an estimated worth of Town lots next to the Irish Inn is needed. Councilmember Stiglitz conveyed that Matt McFarland is also actively working on a petition with signatures of Town residents supporting the Town’s purchase of land for a Town park.

Aaron Hirsch gave his professional opinion about the lots owned by the Town on Oberlin and Tulane Avenues and how best to maximize the value of the lots. He offered to lay out a path for development that would outline what would need to be done to create two conforming lots. He strongly suggests this “highest and best use” be explored as an exercise for a rainy day fund. Councilmember Stiglitz will speak to Town attorney, Ron Bolt, about steps the Town could take for minor re-subdivision of the lots.

COMMITTEE ON AIRPORT NOISE

Mayor Beers noted our political representatives got out foxed when the proposed flight path to Reagan National Airport was moved from Virginia to Maryland.

Motion 2016-92 was made by Councilmember Matney to adjourn. Councilmember Stiglitz seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date