

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
October 9, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Willem Polak, Mayor
Dia Costello, Councilmember
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Dan Spealman, Councilmember
Matt Stiglitz, Councilmember
Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS:
Debbie Beers
Aaron Hirsch
Gloria Levin
Emily Parsons
Mary Parsons
Renny Springuel
Eddie Springuel
Matt Polak
Matt McFarland
Tim Bragin
Jeff Jensen
Martha Morris Shannon
Raya Bodnarchuk

Mayor Polak called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2017-23 was made by Councilmember Stiglitz to approve the September 11, 2017 Town Council minutes. Councilmember Spealman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT DISCUSSION

The issue of filling external committee positions such as Fire Board, GEEPAC, NPS, MML, Police Board, Quiet Skies was discussed.

Former Mayor Beers attended the meeting and reaffirmed her interest in remaining the Town's representative on the GEPPAC board. Mrs. Beers reported she has served on the GEEPAC board since 2002. She has provided legal, policy and personal financial support. She also noted she does not have any relationship with the National Park Service that would be present a conflict of interest. As Mayor Polak is also interested in that role, and has potential business relationship conflicts, she underscored the importance of this and all other Town matters to be discussed in open session. She is currently working on a GEEPAC fundraiser that will feature several Glen Echo homes. She said it would be very disruptive to be removed from the Board and replaced by self-appointed Mayor Polak. Councilmember Stiglitz noted he recalls the former mayor asking to remain on the GEEPAC board. He indicated Glen Echo's charter is silent on nomination process for external committees. He suggested formalizing the current "advise and consent" approach to appointments. Councilmembers Costello and Spealman indicated a need to determine clear boundaries about assigning committee positions. Councilmember

Long noted the GEEPAC bylaws allow GEEPAC to remove committee members, including those nominated by the Town of Glen Echo and the Bannockburn Civic Association, the two groups with representatives to the GEPPAC board.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND INITIATIVES

Councilmember Spealman provided an update about existing Town Council responsibilities and engagement opportunities for the community. This fluid framework currently includes the following interest areas: Town Directory, Constituent Outreach, Utilities, Environmental Management, Town Hall Reservations, Town Hall Maintenance, Streets and Sidewalks, National Park Liaison, Police Advisory Board, Fire Board, Quiet Skies, Ordinance/Charter, Town Records, Outside Funding Opportunities, Social Events, and Livable Town Improvements.

Renny Springuel and Tim Bragin indicated the Streets and Sidewalk committee is in the process of prioritizing projects. All agreed the first step is to address small cracks and pot holes in Town streets. Mr. Springuel will walk the streets with prospective vendors, obtain proposals and report back to Council. The group indicated a desire to have a public meeting in the council room the week of October 15. The Council indicated that the group was on the right track and should proceed with their plans.

The Environmental, Town Records and Liveable Town Groups have all planned to meet the week of October 15. The Social Events group has volunteered to draft language for public use of the town hall by groups like the Daisy Scouts that benefit the community. There has been some difficulty in finding someone to fill Glen Echo's seat on the Conduit Road Fire Board, and the council was unanimously supportive and grateful to Gloria Levin for volunteering to take on that role.

TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE

Options were discussed about replacement or refurbishment of the broken weather vane in the Town Hall cupola. Matt McFarland said he could arrange for the repair and reinstallation. Mayor Polak indicated the Town Hall roof will need to be replaced and presented a preliminary bid from CASE. Matt McFarland said he will also submit a bid for the job.

OXFORD ROAD SPEED BUMP/TOWN STREET SAFETY

Mayor Polak presented a proposal from CASE (cost \$1698.72) for painting the speedbump on Oxford Road with yellow traffic paint with "stop" painted in white.

Gloria Levin reported that cars blocked University Avenue near Princeton Avenue the afternoon of October 7 for an unapproved block party. She said University Avenue is the path for emergency vehicles and should never be blocked. The event hosts were unaware of the parking issue and offered apologies. Councilmember Long expressed safety concerns about basketball hoops along upper Harvard Avenue, especially for children.

HOLIDAY BRUNCH

Glen Echo's holiday brunch will take place Saturday, December 9, 2017, 10:00 am - 11:30 am.

CLERK-TREASURER SEARCH

Mayor Polak reported clerk-treasurer interviews are underway with two town resident candidates and eight non-town-resident candidates. Gloria Levin raised issue that the advertised 20-hour work week was less hours than needed and asked the Mayor and Council to consider allotting additional work hours.

Motion 2017-2 was made by Councilmember Stiglitz to adjourn. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

Willem Polak, Mayor

Date