

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
Town Council Meeting
July 9, 2012

ATTENDANCE: Deborah Beers, Mayor
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Eve Arber, Councilmember
Steve Matney, Councilmember
Mark McCaffrey, Councilmember
Holly Sheldon, Acting Clerk
Nicole Fraser, Clerk-Treasurer, absent

VISITORS: Polly Angelakis, NPS Site Manager of GEP¹
Jocelyn Khalifa , Echo Reporter
Ellen Leary, Resident
Susan Grigsby, Resident

Mayor Beers called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

GEP Site Manger Polly Angelakis reported that the geothermal system for the Clara Barton House (NHS) has been put on hold while focus will be on seeking funds to repair the roof and improve the fire suppression system.

Ms. Angelakis noted that NPS is reviewing landscaping plans and where archeological testing will be necessary along the path at Clara Barton NHS.

Ms. Angelakis reported that NPS is offering 2-day junior ranger camps and all of them are full. Also, the Heritage Montgomery event was well attended.

Ms. Angelakis noted that she was pleased that the Town of Glen Echo wants to host Ranger Kevin Patti's presentation about his official visit to Armenia, where he was invited to speak about Clara Barton and her role in bringing aid to that country. They are currently looking for a day to have the presentation.

The Folk Festival After Action meeting hasn't been scheduled yet due to storm clean up, but will probably be held in late July.

Ms. Angelakis reported that the GEP lost power from the evening of June 29th to 9:30 am on Tuesday, July 3. One large tree fell on a roof of the Living Classroom building and another tree in the picnic grove fell just missing the roof of the Bumper Car pavilion. Also, a lamppost along the path fell and 13 pieces of snow fencing blew over.

¹ Abbreviations used in this document include GEP (Glen Echo Park), NHS (National Historic Site), NHP (National Historic Park) and NPS (National Park Service).

Mayor Beers asked Ms. Angelakis about the timetable for redoing the bike path. Ms. Angelakis said that it has been proposed to put a contract out for bids this Fall.

VISITORS

Ms. Ellen Leary asked about using her personal use of the Town Hall on July 28th for phone banks for the Obama presidential campaign. She expects two waves of 25 volunteers between 3:00 and 7:00 pm. The volunteers will use cell phones and do not require any wires/hook ups. Mayor Beers said that she can use the Town Hall for any type of personal use she'd like. Council approved her use of the Town Hall for the phone bank.

Ms. Susan Grigsby wanted to voice an opinion about the massive mosquito spray in town that she read about in "The Echo". She said that she, as well as other neighbors, are against the spraying because it could harm birds as well as trees and plants. Mayor Beers told her that the town never approved a town-wide mosquito spray and asked Ms. Jocelyn Khalifa to put a retraction in "The Echo" that a mosquito spray has been discussed by groups of neighbors but is not going to be enacted by the town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2012-12 to accept the amended Budget Hearing minutes of May 21st with no changes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion 2012-13 to accept the Budget meeting minutes of May 21st with no changes. Motion passed unanimously.

WI-FI PASSWORD

Mayor Beers noted that she would like to "un-password" the town hall wi-fi because she feels that the people renting the town hall should have free wi-fi access. Mayor Beers asked if there is any way to keep the password for the town hall office, but get rid of it for general town hall use. She suggested Council could put a sign up in the town hall with the password. Councilmember Matney suggested that the town could purchase another router. [*N. B.* – Mayor Beers and Clerk Fraser have discussed the matter and have decided to retain the password for Town Hall guests.]

TOWN MAINTENANCE

Mayor Beers stated that she did not contact Mark Peyton after the storm because she only knew about the fallen tree and power line on upper Yale Avenue. She didn't know about the fallen limbs on lower Yale. She noted that she has called Mr. Peyton about cleaning

up the remaining debris throughout the town. Mayor Beers also suggested that we do another street cleaning because of all the debris.

PEPCO

Mayor Beers stated that she was in communication with PEPCO throughout the storm. She said that she has also sent e-mails to many of the state officials. She will write to the Public Service Commission about issues from the storm as well as the proposed rate increase. The Mayor suggested that we put a reminder in "The Echo" that in cases of power outages, all residents need to be proactive and call PEPCO. Mayor Beers also noted that resident Gloria Levin suggested that we open the Town Hall as a cooling station, if it had power, and some of the Town did not have power. Council agreed that there would have to be someone to monitor the Town Hall, if that were to be adopted.

Mayor Beers also mentioned that the electrical line that went down on upper Yale Avenue was an un-insulated copper wire that needed to be replaced anyway. She is concerned that PEPCO hasn't replaced all of these old wires.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long noted that the Town Hall floors are being refinished starting on July 17th and are expected to be completed by July 24th.

She also noted that the Town picnic will be held on July 15th and the Ordinance Review meeting will take place on the 30th. She will host a meeting of the (interim) C&O Canal NHP Commission on July 27, using one of her free uses.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Councilmember Long stated that at end of the July 18 West Montgomery Citizens Advisory Committee (WMCAC) Meeting that she and Councilmember Arber attended, she talked to Ken Hartman, Director of Bethesda Chevy Chase Services Center, who said that the bus terminal in Bethesda is to be demolished in September, but an alternate location is yet to be determined.

Mayor Beers wants to ask WMCAC at their next meeting about their plans for parking in Bethesda.

Councilmember McCaffrey stated that he still has not received costs from Washington Gas.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

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Respectfully submitted, Holly Sheldon. Acting Clerk

Deborah M. Beers, Mayor

Date

Attachments :