

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**AUGUST 12, 2013**

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor  
Nancy Long, Councilmember  
Steve Matney, Councilmember  
Mark McCaffrey, Councilmember  
Matt Stiglitz, Councilmember (absent)  
Nicole Fraser, Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS: Edie & Renny Springuel, residents  
Debbie Lange, resident  
Sascha Haverfield, resident  
Cris White, resident  
Phyllis Fordham, The Echo Reporter  
Susan Grigsby, resident  
Carol Barton, resident  
Andy Malmgren, resident  
Diana Hudson-Taylor, resident  
Raya Bodnarchuk, resident  
Aaron LaRocca, Supervisory Park Ranger/Site Leadership Team, CBNHS & GEP<sup>1</sup>

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

**GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT**

Mr. LaRocca reported that Alex Romero was named permanent Superintendent of the GWMP (and has told the staff to expect changes in the park). Ranger Vanessa Smiley has accepted a detail to the Air Resources Division but will continue to report to GEP as her duty station.

NPS and Montgomery County met last week to determine future ownership and maintenance about the shared use path (bike and pedestrian) as it passes through CBNHS/GEP. It was decided that NPS will own and maintain all features of this path in that segment. Montgomery County was not granted a perpetual easement through NPS land for this alternative segment of the path. Concerns about the proposal include decreased parking area, creek atmosphere and safety (Mr. LaRocca's report is attached).

Ms. Lange asked if the logs placed along the path to Minnehaha Creek are permanent. Mr. LaRocca said that there are no plans to move the logs; the path is not an NPS trail. Ms. Springuel asked about safety on Oxford Road especially with the large buses (Calleva, Lab School, *etc.*) using CBNHS parking lot for pick-up and drop-off. Mr. LaRocca noted that Calleva and the Lab School have commercial use authorization to use the CBNHS parking lot. However, the large groups of bikers do not. Mr. LaRocca noted that some of the worst offenders of ignoring the stop sign and speed limits on Oxford are the parents of campers at GEP/CBNHS.

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<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations in this document include CBNHS (Clara Barton National Historic Site), GEP (Glen Echo Park), GEPPAC (Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture), GWMP (George Washington Memorial Parkway), NPS (National Park Service) and WG (Washington Gas).

Mr. LaRocca encouraged residents to call the park police (202-610-7505; emergency line is 202-610-7500) to create a record of complaints and NPS may increase the park police presence.

Councilmember Long noted that the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Puppet Company at GEP, one of the first park service co-operators at GEP. They bring “excellent artistry and business sense” together to create a successful enterprise.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 2013-18** Council approved May Budget Meeting minutes with no changes.

Councilmember Matney proposed the motion; Councilmember Long seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion 2013-19** Council approved May Budget Hearing minutes with one change. Under “Budget,” first sentence, “at” is changed to “to.”

Councilmember McCaffrey proposed the motion; Councilmember Matney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion 2013-20** Council approved July Council Meeting minutes with no changes.

Councilmember Long proposed the motion; Councilmember McCaffrey seconded; Councilmember Matney abstained since he was absent from the July Council meeting. Motion passed unanimously those voting.

**Motion 2013-21** Council approved July 16 Special Council Meeting minutes with two changes. Under “Washington Gas” heading, first paragraph, last sentence change “newly” to “new.” Under “Washington Gas” heading, eleventh paragraph, last sentence insertion of “is” after “this.”

Councilmember McCaffrey proposed the motion; Councilmember Matney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **WASHINGTON GAS**

Clerk-Treasurer Fraser presented the final package to be sent to WG (letter of intent, WG permit with road/sidewalk repair specifications, check). Councilmember Long noted that WG takes no responsibility for damage to trees. Mayor Beers noted that WG will not remove or replace trees on private property. Councilmember Long noted that she is concerned about several trees in Town and suggested an arborist to give advice. Mayor Beers concurred.

**Motion 2013-22** Reintroduction of proposed amendment to ordinances Articles 17 & 23 to require a Town permit for natural gas installation.

Councilmember Matney proposed the motion; Councilmember McCaffrey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lange said that the permit was in effect a double tax on residents as residents have already funded the gas project by paying their municipal taxes. Mayor Beers countered that this is a

minimal charge when in comparison to the overall cost of the project and it would make the Town's financial situation much better.

**Motion 2013-23** Council approved the permit for WG with no changes. Councilmember Matney proposed the motion; Councilmember McCaffrey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion 2013-24** Council moved to move from surplus:

- \$35,000 to budget line item 13.6 to cover the cost of natural gas installation ;
- \$5,000 to budget line item 12.5 for vegetation removal).

Councilmember Matney proposed the motion; Councilmember Long seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

Councilmember Long reported that Senators Cardin and Mikulski have approved the extension of the C&O Canal Advisory Commission. Senator Cardin's press release (attached) stated that the "advisory commission is a model of how communities and the NPS can interact in a way that is beneficial to both... maintaining and improving the park."

### **TOWN WIDE YARD SALE**

Ms. Bondnarchuk announced that she, Diana Hudson-Taylor, Carol Barton and Forest Yang offered organize the Town Wide Yard Sale on October 19<sup>th</sup> and asked to reserve the Town Hall in case of rain.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicole Fraser  
Clerk-Treasurer

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Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date

Attachments: Mr. LaRocca's August 2013 GEP/CBNHS report  
Proposed amendment to ordinances Articles 17 & 23  
Police report  
Press Release from Senator Cardin on the C&O Canal Advisory Commission