

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

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

VISITORS: Deborah Lange, resident
Raya Bodnarchuk, resident
Gerry Bodlander, reporter for The Echo
Aaron LaRocca, Supervisory Park Ranger/Site Leadership Team, CBNHS
& GEP¹

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

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Mr. LaRocca reported that GWMP would hold a summit on 9/10-9/11 to discuss the reorganization of GWMP. Mayor Beers asked if this was related to sequestration. Mr. LaRocca said that it is in part a budget issue and in part how to maximize funds. It is likely that at GEP/CBNHS the interpretative services will be affected (the carousel program, the CBNHS ranger interpretative tours, outreach efforts, education programs, *etc.*). Mr. LaRocca's report is attached.

Mr. LaRocca reported that the FONSI and permit for the Montgomery County shared use path have been signed by the Regional Director and GWMP Superintendent Romero. Councilmember Long requested that the Council be given a copy. The permit allows Montgomery County to work on the part of the path in GEP and CBNHS with a list of conditions (*e.g.* restricted hours of work, no holiday or weekend work, keeping access to parking lots open, use of Oxford Road for ordinary traffic and heavy duty vehicles). Councilmember Long noted that she had met with Paul Bender assistant resident engineer of Alpha Corporation, a Montgomery County Contractor; he is coordinating the shared use path project and has been very helpful as a contact.

Mayor Beers acknowledged the success of the Labor Day Art Show at GEP and gave thanks to NPS and Councilmember Long for their hard work for the art show. Councilmember Long said that the show pleased the public, although it has never been a fund-raising event for GEP (money paid for art work sold goes to the artists). 553 entries were submitted this year, more than previous years.

Councilmember Stiglitz asked about the status of creating a new parking lot entrance (where the current exit is) along Oxford Road. Mr. LaRocca said that the project is in the funding queue

¹ Abbreviations in this document include CBNHS (Clara Barton National Historic Site), FONSI (Finding Of No Significant Impact), GEP (Glen Echo Park), GEPPAC (Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture), GWMP (George Washington Memorial Parkway), NCC (National Community Church), NPS (National Park Service) and WG (Washington Gas).

and each park competes for funding through the PMIS (Project Management Information System). Mr. LaRocca estimated that the project has a very low funding priority at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2013-25 Council approved August Meeting minutes with no changes.

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

REINTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Motion 2013-26 Reintroduction of proposed amendment to ordinance Articles 17 & 23 to require a Town permit for natural gas installation.

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

Ms. Lange began to speak about the rationale of the permit fee. Mayor Beers excused herself from the meeting feeling ill; she asked Councilmember Long to act as Mayor for the rest of the meeting. Mayor Beers asked Ms. Lange if the issue could be discussed at the next Council meeting.

COMMUNITY POLICE BOARD REPORT

Councilmember Stiglitz reported on the community police board meeting held on September 3rd at the Montgomery County Seven Locks Detention Facility. Recent renovations to the facility will enable officers to process detainees in a little as 15 minutes allowing officers to return to the streets. Councilmember Stiglitz reported that overall crime is down in all major categories in the district which includes Glen Echo (*e.g.* robberies are down 75%, theft from autos down 40%). He cautioned all residents to keep valuables out of sight and lock car doors. The next meeting will be held in November. Councilmember Stiglitz's report is attached.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long reported that Town resident requests for October are three as of this meeting and three for November. She has received two requests from non-residents to use the Town Hall on the weekends; both groups have used the Town Hall before. The first request is from a group of nurses at Sibley Hospital for a Halloween Party. The second is from the Sugarloaf Volksmarch Group for Saturday October 25, 2014. The Town Halloween Party will be held at 5:30 at the Town Hall on October 31st.

MACARTHUR BOULEVARD BIKEWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Councilmember Long noted that the large bush at the Harvard Avenue entrance may pose a visual obstruction given the additional bike-lane development of MacArthur Boulevard. If the bush is deemed a potential problem, it could be removed and planted in the right-of-way between Yale and Harvard Avenues. Councilmember Long outlined the expansion of the MacArthur Boulevard project and its potential effect on pedestrians having to cross three bike lanes and two car lanes of traffic, as well as motorists who would encounter additional bike lanes. She pointed out that MacArthur Boulevard is the only way in and out of Glen Echo for motorists.

Councilmember Stiglitz noted that the new project are not lanes in the traditional sense and does not anticipate that the daily effect of the new layout to be that different from the current situation. Councilmember Long reported that she felt dealing with three bike lanes is potentially hazardous for pedestrians.

ADDITION TO AGENDA

Councilmember Long reported that Andy Backus, pastor of the NCC-Glen Echo, and his family moved from Glen Echo to be near family in West Virginia. Councilmember Long noted that Mr. Backus developed a sensitivity to the needs of Glen Echo residents as he became acquainted with his neighbors and worked on the renovation of the Vassar Circle property. He and his family will be missed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Fraser
Clerk-Treasurer

Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date

Attachments: Mr. LaRocca's September 2013 GEP/CBNHS report
Proposed amendment to ordinances Articles 17 & 23
Police report
Community Police Board Report