

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
April 13, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Steve Matney, Councilmember
Mark McCaffrey, Councilmember
Matt Stiglitz, Councilmember
Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS: Emily Parsons, The Echo reporter
Jack Thompson, (intern for delegate Marc Korman)
Aaron LaRocca, National Park Service
Gloria Levin, resident
Mary Parsons, resident
Edie Springuel, resident
Renny Springuel, resident
Eve Arber, resident
Raya Bodnarchuk, resident
Susan Grigsby, resident
Diana Hudson-Taylor, resident
Norman Hudson-Taylor, resident

Debbie Beers called the meeting to order at 8: 05 p.m.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Aaron LaRocca provided the following report:

Clara Barton Rehabilitation Project

The 30 day public comment period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) about the rehabilitation project has closed. The park received four comments. Any substantive comments will be answered in the final EA. The EA process will be completed when the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) document is signed by the Regional Director. George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) and Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to specify roles and responsibilities as the project moves forward. The Town, as a consulting party can sign on the MOA. The house is still scheduled to close to the public in July.
Glen Echo Park Partnership Agreement- Scope of Operations Charrette-

The GWMP, Montgomery County and Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) have begun work on a new agreement for the management of Glen Echo Park. The park will have an internal charrette on April 30 to determine the scope of services for Glen Echo Park. Aaron will make sure Town concerns are discussed at the charrette. The findings of that charrette will be shared with GEPPAC. The current agreement between the NPS and Montgomery County expires in 2017.

Montgomery County Shared Use Path

Montgomery County needs to address the current handrail. The NPS feels that the handrail is a safety issue for trail users. The county has provided the park with new plans. The county has not provided the park with a timeline for project completion.

Find Your Park-

The National Park Foundation (NPF) and the NPS are kicking off the Find Your Park NPS centennial campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise public awareness and increase support for centennial goals. Numerous corporate level partners will be helping the NPF to support the Find Your Park public awareness campaign.

Special Events

In March and April the Park hosted two special presentations by Mary Ann Jung, a Clara Barton first person interpreter. Both were well attended. Family Day and Washington Folkfest preparations are underway. Applications have been submitted but are not yet approved.

NPS Seasonal Staffing

The North District of the Visitor Services Division has started to bring on staff for the park's busy season. Ranger Zackary Gardner, and Ranger David Dyre will be brought back to support Glen Echo Park and Clara Barton National Historic Site operations.

Through connections at the law firm of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, Mayor Beers received multiple photographs of the two Baltzley "castle houses" on MacArthur Blvd as well as photographs of Glen Echo Park when it was a Chautauqua site in the late 1800s. Aaron LaRocca will explore possibility of the Park Service scanning and preserving the photos and perhaps keeping the originals in climate controlled storage.

Councilmember Long stated the Environmental Assessment report for the Clara Barton House rehabilitation project is available at Town Hall for any interested residents. She restated the importance of the Town to remain a party to this project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Matney suggested deferring the approval of minutes from the March 2015 Town Council meeting pending Councilmember review. All agreed.

POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

Councilmember Stiglitz requests feedback from the community about the police department Five Year Strategic Plan he sent via the Town list serve. He will collect and aggregate responses and then provide information to the Police Advisory Board.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long reported the Potomac Valley Scottish Fiddle Club which has been using the Town Hall one a year for several years has been very respectful of our facility. She noted Club members paid special attention to the type of shoes they wore so as not to damage the floor while dancing.

The Town Election will take place May 4, 2015, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in Town Council chambers.

The Budget Hearing will be held May 21, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. followed by a meeting of the Town Council to adopt a budget.

VARIANCE HEARING 6100 PRINCETON AVENUE

Discussion ensued about the upcoming variance hearing scheduled May 6, 2015 regarding the new shed at 6100 Princeton Avenue. An unknown complainant contacted Montgomery County officials to raise the issue of the shed being too close to the property line. Following a recommendation made by Mayor Beers for the Town attorney to be instructed to attend the May 6, 2015 hearing, Councilmember Long made a motion to that effect: Motion 2015-14. Councilmember McCaffrey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PEPCO TREE CUTTING

Councilmember Stiglitz raised the issue of aggressive tree cutting by Pepco in Town. Residents echoed concerns. Mayor Beers noted that there have been fewer power outages since Pepco stepped up tree cutting efforts.

STREET SWEEPING

Councilmember Stiglitz noted the Town’s streets were cleaned in April. A resident reported Columbia Avenue may have been skipped. It was decided a second round of street sweeping will take place late May/early June based on the timing of the oak drop.

SPEED BUMP

Resident Renny Springuel asked that the speed bump on upper Bryn Mawr Avenue not be replaced.

FIRE AT 6102 BRYN MAWR AVENUE

Resident Susan Grigsby noted the local fire departments (approximately 85 responders) did a fabulous job managing the March 29, 2015, fire at 6102 Bryn Mawr Avenue.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Resident Gloria Levin shared the news that Mark Springuel was one of six people awarded the “Golden Shovel” award given to good Samaritans who helped neighbors shovel snow during the winter of 2015. The honor is given out each year by Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Floreen as a way to highlight and encourage clearing snow off sidewalks and driveways.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date