

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
June 8, 2015**

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

VISITORS: Julia Wilson, The Echo reporter
Aaron LaRocca, National Park Service
Christian Alarie, Boy Scouts
Rene Augustine, Boy Scouts
Kelly Bohi, Resident
Leah Hertz, resident
Aaron Hirsch, resident
Gloria Levin, resident
Matt McFarland, resident
Emily Parsons, resident
Mary Parsons, resident
Patty Sieber, resident
Edie Springuel, resident
Renny Springuel, resident
Raya Bodnarchuk, resident

Debbie Beers called the meeting to order at 8: 01 p.m.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Aaron LaRocca provided the following report:

The Programmatic Agreement between the NPS and the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office has been signed to specify roles and responsibilities as the project moves forward. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been signed by the Regional Director completing the process of compliance with National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The project is moving forward to contracting.

Jr. Ranger Book

The visitor service staff worked in partnership with National Child Research Center (NCRC) to develop and print a Junior Ranger Book targeted at 3-6 year olds. NCRC also paid to have 200 books printed. The book features activities appropriate for 3-6 year olds, like rubbings and animal sounds.

Under the Sea

Under the Sea, an outdoor education organization will be the new tenant in the Stable space at Glen Echo Park. The space will be called Glen Echo Park Aquarium. There is no current official opening date, but they hope to offer weekend hours and summer camps.

Pollinator Garden

The parks biologist, Erik Oberg is working with Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture to develop a native pollinator in and around the stable area of Glen Echo Park. The garden will be low maintenance, self-sustaining and replace non-native species. The visitor services will be developing interpretive materials to educate the public of the importance of the watershed and non-native plants.

NPS Seasonal Staffing

Ranger Zackary Gardner will be leaving the NPS. His last day is Friday, June 12. Jennifer Epolito will backfill behind Zack. She will start in late June early July. Art Williams has been brought on to backfill in the maintenance division behind Mike Hagberg. Art is a seasonal employee.

Following this report, the Folk Life Festival was discussed. Mayor Beers said from the Town's perspective the Festival went well.

TOWN BUSINESS

Mayor Beers has been in contact with Pepco about recent power outages.

Aaron Hirsch restated his interest in a pedestrian access from Town to the C&O Canal. He noted the C&O Canal is such an amazing resource it would benefit many residents if we could access the canal more readily. Mayor Beers and Councilmember Long indicated this idea has been explored and the National Park Service and public response deemed it not feasible due to expense and parking issues. The argument was made at the time, and would still be true, that such a development would become a parking area for C & O Canal visitors. This situation would leave no parking for Glen Echo Park and Clara Barton NHS visitors. Overflow parking would end up on Town streets, MacArthur Boulevard, and other neighborhoods.

ONE VASSAR CIRCLE

Matt McFarland, resident and prospective buyer of One Vassar circle asked the Town Council to reinstate the document allowing home owner use of Town land to add to their backyards, specifically, this refers to the Wellesley Circle unpaved right-of-way that adds footage to the backyards of 1 Vassar Circle and 6108 Bryn Mawr Avenue. He wants to build a fence and has offered to pay to maintain the land. Mayor Beers indicated she is anti-fence and does not want residents erecting semi-permanent structures on Town land. She is open to a new agreement where the land could be used but not fenced. Councilmembers will review survey and walk the space and discuss with current and prospective owners.

Aaron Hirsch continued this discussion of the use of Town land by residents. He is interested in exploring the option of building a playground in the Town and will research insurance options. The possibility of a dog park was also mentioned.

BALTZLEY CASTLE

There is a proposal to build another house below the "little" Baltzley castle by Ross McNair. Some of Mr. McNair's neighbors are opposing the construction before the Historic Preservation Commission. Attorneys representing the group of neighbors reached out to the Town asking for support. Mayor Beers indicated the property is not within our boundaries and it is too late for the Town of get officially involved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2015-42 was made by Councilmember Matney to approve the May 21, 2015 Budget Hearing minutes as amended (Final projected income changed to \$558,222.91; Final projected expenses changed

to \$305,728.91; Projected final net income changed to \$252,493.87). Councilmember Long seconded. Motion passed.

Motion 2015-43 was made by Councilmember Matney to approve the May 21, 2015 Budget Meeting minutes as amended (Final projected income changed to \$558,222.91; Final projected expenses changed to \$305,728.91; Projected final net income changed to \$252,493.87). Councilmember Long seconded. Motion passed.

Motion 2015-44 was made by Councilmember Matney to approve the May 11, 2015 minutes as amended. Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed.

POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

Councilmember Stiglitz was not present to give the police advisory board update.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long reported the May 24, 2015 fundraiser to benefit Nepal earthquake victims raised \$6,000. She also reported that the English Country Dance group rental for 2014 was \$3,825 or \$75 per use for 51 uses. The Town Picnic is scheduled July 12, 2015, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The clerk-treasurer has confirmed all arrangements and Councilmember Costello will serve as the onsite contact the day of the event.

TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE

Councilmember Long mentioned the Zelcova tree in front of Town Hall is losing branches. Clerk Treasurer has contacted an arborist with Bartlett Tree Experts to schedule an assessment.

Resident Matt McFarland recommended Jim Stanley Asphalt as a potential vendor to repave the Town Hall parking lot. Clerk Treasurer will ask for a proposal. It was noted that the handicapped space should be relocated from current downward sloping location.

OTHER MAINTENANCE

Montgomery County installed (skimpy) plantings along MacArthur Boulevard at the top of Town streets. Mayor Beers will stay in touch with Montgomery County officials to ensure plants are maintained. Clerk Treasurer will contact Chapel Valley to inquire about extending our landscaping contract to enhance the recent plantings. Native, drought resistant, hearty plants such as black-eyed susan were suggested. The possibility of gathering neighbors to water and maintain the plantings was discussed. Julia Wilson volunteered to coordinate.

Mayor Beers indicated Lee Peyton will handle snow removal next year.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Malmgren, Clerk-Treasurer

Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date