

The Town of

GLEN ECHO

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TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

LIVABLE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

7-8:30 pm at town hall.

Participants:

Jan Shaut (livable community member, just joined!)

Aaron Hirsch (livable community member)

Pete Epanchin (livable community member)

Troy Etulain (presenter)

Julia Wilson (livable community member)

Dan Spealman (livable community member)

Martha Shannon (livable community member)

Gloria Levin (presenter)

Film:

-What film should we feature next time in the town hall? But first, should films in the town hall continue? There have been some reports that adults who attended without kids didn't enjoy it because they couldn't hear over the kids' noise. The kids who have attended in the past enjoyed the movie, attendance has been low: the typical audience has been 7-10 kids from town.

-A suggestion was made for showing a movie for adults. There is interest in bringing in a speaker to introduce the movie, give some film context. Kelly Cole has the credentials to do this, Julia will follow up to ask if she is interested. Friday nights were agreed as being a good day, potentially 8pm. A date will be picked at a future point.

Volunteer ideas:

Note that Glen Echo is accredited to give SSL Hours so any volunteer opportunity should offer this.

1. Minnehaha Creek clean up. The Little Falls Conservancy to lead a clean up in November? One of the three weekends in November before Thanksgiving. The Minehaha runs up past River Road so lots of possible locations that could be taken on. Dan to follow up with the Little Falls Conservancy
2. Spontaneous event: Tire clean up in the Potomac with Beth Rogers of Bannockburn. She and husband Mike have been doing this a few times this fall now that water levels are low. If it happens again, Pete will send an invite to the listserve as a volunteer opportunity for Potomac River clean-up.
3. Glen Echo's bird and butterfly garden (on right of way next to Town Hall), eventually to be dedicated to Nancy Long. A first step is to turn the soil; Holly S is the ringleader, she is spearheading the effort. There may be a need for turning soil and digging, there will be a follow up directly with Holly to plan next steps for the garden.

-Presentation by Troy Etulian.

Kids live in all the houses on Oxford and there is a safety issue for pedestrians: Oxford is a busy street and feels unsafe. Proposal is to install a path (e.g., sidewalk and stairs) from MacArthur down Oxford and on to the park. Proposal is to put path on the Park side of Oxford and have it continue down toward the footbridge for a total of approx 510 linear feet. Troy has had preliminary conversations with the Mayor and the Park (Aaron LaRocha). Aaron was supportive but realistic in that the park wouldn't have funds to pay for this (costs are unknown). The Roddy's and others on Oxford are supportive. There are lots of issues that might come up with this (maintenance, liability, permissions, overflow parking that would need to cross the sidewalk).

The discussion also included removing bamboo from the right of way next to the Roddy residence, this would extend the sidewalk on Oxford all the way to MacArthur. It was suggested that this option should also be explored as an alternative. It would be much cheaper.

Gloria: Senior Villages.

Senior Villages were started in Boston a long time ago and today they surround Glen Echo but Glen Echo doesn't have one or belong to one. Senior Villages sprang from the need and desire to have people age in their own home, giving people rides, doing some work around the house (changing light bulbs, etc). These often start off based around rides but they can expand out beyond that, for social and cultural events etc. The Town is a small community so it may be difficult to establish a very active community, but a minimally active community could be established. What this might look like is variable. A few examples:

Little Falls Village (zip is 20816) has a Senior Village with full time staff and tons of activities. Full membership is about \$800/year, other membership plans are cheaper (\$350).

Bannockburn has a Senior Village, too. This model is a bit less than what Little Falls offers, but has high membership and still provides plenty of services. Bannockburn is "neighbors assisting neighbors" and is free, it is all volunteer-based.

Cabin John is an example of the minimum model of a Senior Village. It's got some members, not very active, does the minimal level of effort.

-Gloria thinks that Glen Echo could do their own Senior Village but that it would be maybe offer just a bit more than a bare minimum type of village. Therefore, Gloria asked the Bannockburn community if they would consider incorporating Glen Echo. The question she got in response was, "do you have young people who would volunteer for it?" There are trade offs of joining Bannockburn's: pros include that it's already established, cons include that it may not be as personal or feel community-oriented (from a Glen Echo perspective) as one that could be

specific to Glen Echo. Note that there is no minimum number of members for a well functioning Senior Village.

- Gloria has a contact of someone w/ the county. A very competent person who may be available to give a presentation to the town on this (for a future town council meeting) and give guidance on establishing a survey for the town. The latter will be raised at the next town council w/ a request to move forward on a survey.

-Festival of lights.

This idea got a lot of support when the livable community survey was sent out.

This would be a one time (annual) event. Could be a charity fundraiser where luminaries (candle mounted in sand placed in a brown paper lunch bag) would be sold and profits donated to a charity.

This would be a fun, special thing to do in town, to bring the cozy warmth of many lights to the outdoors (think lots of candles lining a/the street(s)). Done in the winter, when it's freezing cold-- this would offer a fun respite to enjoy the winter and create a sense of warmth and celebration.. Just a fun thing to do, very festive. An idea someone offered is to encourage people walk around town enjoying it w/ everyone ending up at town hall for a drink.

Diwali is Oct 27, probably too early to tie into that festival. Jan might be good. Feb is unlikely to rain (a plus). Sunday night in early February. Agreed on Saturday January 25 as the date to request this to happen.

Next meeting: TBD