

COUNCIL REPORTS

August 2011

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Alice Negin

The Recreation Committee mourns the loss of a dear friend, Mary Kay DuBois. Mary Kay has been the Co-Chair of the Washington Grove Recreation Committee for many years. She was a dedicated and devoted volunteer. She will be missed.

Recreation Business: Craig English will chair the Labor Day Events. Flyer was in the July newsletter and will be repeated in August.

Next Recreation Meeting in September.

MCCATHRAN HALL – Alice Negin

Nothing to Report. Next meeting will be in September.

WEB SITE – Alice Negin

Kathy and Alice and Bill Saar will meet in September to discuss Google calendar options.

HPC – Joli A. McCathran

The HPC met on August 18, 2011. There were no projects to be reviewed.

Report by Council Liaison: Joli McCathran reported on concerns of the Town Council that CSX plans for the National Gateway were proceeding quickly and the Town's concerns about the Humpback Bridge might not be heard. A Town Meeting to allow the Mayor and her representatives more flexibility in dealing with the project will be called in October. Commissioners discussed the Town's options or lack of them and inquired how other historic jurisdictions are dealing with CSX plans. Gail Littlefield offered to contact Preservation Maryland and Bob Booher offered to re-contact Maryland Historic Trust, the state agency with responsibility for preservation issues.

Permit application and Written Review Procedure: Bob's draft proposal to change the permit application procedure was reviewed. It was agreed to edit the document by email with the new procedure to be sent to the Planning Commission in time for their next meeting on Sept. 7, which David Stopak and perhaps Bob Booher will attend.

Also discussed were next steps forward for approval of the new procedure. There was consensus the PC and HPC could jointly make the necessary changes and formal TC approval was not required. However, David Stopak and Joli McCathran felt strongly that it would be best to engage the TC in the process before finalizing anything. It was suggested a presentation be made once there was agreement with the PC asking the TC for input and advice in a consultative fashion.

There was discussion of a need for a separate HPC application for Written Review separate from the regular Permit Application once the two were uncoupled. A little more work would be required to get the application in a final form.

Future workshops: It was agreed that Gail Littlefield contacts for a workshop on energy savings for Washington Grove homes. A date in October was suggested.

Casey 6 & 7: Bob Booher briefly reported on the group organized by Shelley Winkler of which he is a part that is coordinating with the County on their plans for development of the new Service Park. At issue are buffers for the Town between residential and industrial land uses, bike path route, noise remediation, and the view shed.

Archivist: The Town is in need of an archivist to replace David Neumann who has offered to write a detailed job description. Joli McCathran offered to contact a possible candidate for the job.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

As requested at the August Town Council meeting, Joe Clark, Bill Robertson, and Joli McCathran met to discuss concerns brought to the Town Council meeting regarding unauthorized and over use of the ball field. No permits for use are in place for this season. Bill Robertson agreed to contact Mr. Flores to get his application for this season. Several minor changes to Resolution 2009-02 and will be on the agenda for the September 12 Council meeting.

After this meeting Joli McCathran met with Georgette Cole. Georgette agreed to contact Ann Briggs to see if she would coordinate a group of Town volunteers to monitor use of the ball field.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

The Committee agreed on a basic design concept. Chair Ernie Kawasaki sent the draft to Brenda Sandberg, LOS Project Manager, for her review.

MAINTENANCE – Joe Clark

I do hope people noticed how quickly Steve Werts and his “crew” of volunteers were out Sunday after the storm and cleaned debris from the streets. I can only ask when you see Steve, Bruce or Bill to give them a good pat on the back and a good “thank you”. The Town is indeed fortunate.

In the month of August the tennis fence was almost completed. This work has involved a lot of volunteer help, machinery, installing the posts in concrete, leveling the various gates to insure proper opening and closing, removing damaging roots at and adjacent to the courts and tightening all the fencing so that it is a solid “unit”. Also, the barriers in Woodward Park were incrementally replaced.

Repair and maintenance of the emergency lighting in McCathran Hall and the Town offices occupied a couple of day’s work and a review of the Town’s buildings was conducted with the municipal insurance agent.

Safety lines were painted at selected ditches along Center & Hickory.

The parks, walkways, Lake, Railroad Park and the soccer field were mowed as needed. Trash was removed from the park areas and the bathrooms were regularly cleaned.

After meeting with the Mayor and council persons, Steve Werts worked with the tree people employed by PEPCO and many of the tree limbs which were hazardous were removed.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Joe Clark

There were two permitting issues before the Commission at the August meeting. At 330 Ridge Road, the terms of a temporary use permit and the need for a building permit for the observatory structure were discussed with the owner. Also, the request for a fence permit for 204 Ridge Road did not meet the submission deadline and it will be discussed at the September meeting.

There was discussion about the CSX bridge issue, the EMOC development and the property at the end of Brown Street extended which contains the drainage basin. This is an issue between the Town and the developer and the ownership of the land needs to be transferred to the Town as per the agreement reached in 1980's

Finally, the issue of parking along the 200 block of Grove Road was discussed.

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

August arrived with the long expected Asplundh pruning and tree removal. Pepco's main objective – to clear all wires of tree limbs within eight/ten feet, this sometimes included the removal of a tree that had potential of falling during winter storms and fouling the electric lines. Pepco hired a licensed forester to review the town and private property trees adjacent to roads and walkways. The F&B councilor, plus town maintenance spent many hours checking town property to insure minimal damage would occur. There are some trees on town property that will need remedial work once Asplundh have left town. Where trees have been pruned or removed on private land permission of the property owner was sought by Pepco before passing the contract to Asplundh. A Wayside Tree Permit required by Maryland was also obtained by Pepco.

F&B held a meeting August 30th. Present: - Carol Uhlendorf Chairperson, Audrey Maskery F&B Council liaison, Deb Mehlferber, and Georgette Cole. Discussion on new shrubs for garden adjacent to Town Hall; purchase of Azaleas, Pieris Japonica and other deer resistant shrubs to augment current elderly Azaleas. Additional shrub/tree plantings required for Morgan Park Daffodil garden, a possible re-shaping of this garden was discussed. A bulk purchase of spring bulbs for both the Town Hall and Morgan Park, planting will take place in late October.

Next Forestry & Beatification meeting will be October 17th.

MONUMENTS – Audrey Maskery

A request received from Greg Silber and Jim Snyder for a tree to be planted in memory of Dr & Mrs. Horan. The tree will be planted in Woodward Park near the 'town nursery'. A Sweet Gum has been proposed for this area, because it is very wet for about two to three months of the year.

The second tree request received was for a Blue Spruce to be planted in memory of Mary Kay Du Bois, preferably in Woodward Park in front of her house.

The Crass family requested a park bench and plaque be placed by the town tennis court in memory of Mary Kay.

One of the victims of the last two winters was a Forest Pansy planted for past Mayor Carol Uhlendorf, after consulting with Carol it was decided a Witch Hazel planted within the vicinity of the Town Hall would be a pleasing addition.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

The intersection at Center and Hickory was painted with yellow edge to warn drivers of drop off at the corner. Several calls to Ed Roberts were made but not returned so no meeting with Mr. Roberts has occurred.

CONTRACTS – Bill Robertson

Nothing to report.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Bill Robertson

Nothing to report.

MAPLE LAKE – Sylvie Favret

Committee meeting re-scheduled.

SAFETY – Sylvie Favret

Nothing to report.