

COUNCIL REPORTS

JULY 2011

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Alice Negin

They are waiting to hear from Craig English about plans for Labor Day activities. Next meeting will be in September.

MCCATHRAN HALL – Alice Negin

Nothing to Report. Next meeting will be in September.

WEB SITE – Alice Negin

Nothing to Report.

HPC – Joli A. McCathran

The HPC met on July 19, 2011. No reports were submitted for review.

The HPC will invite David Neumann to a meeting in the near future to demonstrate to the HPC the archives and the archive storage process he has developed.

PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

Steve Werts and Crew are continuing their work in the installation of the fencing around the tennis courts.

Steve is beginning on the replacement installation of the barriers in the parking lot areas of the play ground and field using timbers. The new barriers are 2” higher than the existing ones for easier mowing and trimming.

The LGIT Insurance Inspector visited the Town and did find the borders around the playground equipment is below of industry safety standards. The two slides are not able to be brought into compliance. Steve is planning to install to industry standards around all as time permits.

WASHINGTON GROVE COMSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

The committee, lead by Ernie Kawasaki, held a meeting on June 28, 2011 with Brenda Sandberg, LOS Program Manager. Brenda showed plans and discussed several comparable projects where she works with local community groups or municipalities. We discussed several options and ideas for the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park. The main points discussed were:

- Hedgerow: All agreed the "bad invasives" should be removed immediately (hedgerow and meadow). The dead and dying trees can be removed and trees threatening power lines will be cut down by Pepco.
- Meadow Mowing: All agreed mowing was good to maintain the meadow and its meadow like appearance. The only concern was timing the work so as not to disturb/destroy wildlife at crucial points of their life cycle.

- Tree/Shrub Islands: it was suggested to have a few wooded "islands" scattered in the meadow for aesthetic purposes and as wildlife habitats.
- Trail Paths: The committee members thought that instead of a circular foot path around the entire LOS, a kind of meandering path(s) through the meadow would more enjoyable for the walkers and joggers from the surrounding communities.
- Trees in Buffer: We all agreed that adding trees (evergreen and deciduous but more evergreen) as buffer to help block freeway noise would be an excellent addition to the LOS. The point was brought up that it would be nice if the trees were planted in an undulating pattern rather than in a straight line.
- Community Garden: After much discussion, it was decided a community garden in upper Ridge Road would not be in the best interest of Washington Grove.

The Committee met on two additional subsequent occasions to discuss and prepare the Town's concepts to present to the Town Council and then LOS personnel.

MAINTENANCE – Joe Clark

The month of July was the hottest month on record for the Washington DC area and it made the maintenance of the grounds and trees of the Town's parks and right of ways more important.

Mowing of all public areas was completed for the July 4th events and the new trees were watered on a scheduled basis.

Work on the tennis fence replacement continued throughout the month. This work has saved the Town considerable money because the installation was done entirely by Steve Werts and his staff/volunteers.

The replacement of the barriers in the parking lot area of Woodward Park was completed. These barriers are only two inches higher than the round telephone poles but the new barriers allow for a much improved mowing clearance than before. The new barriers improve safety and need less time for maintenance.

Several dead and diseased trees were removed this past spring and early summer. The stumps were ground to a below surface level. They will be filled with new soil and seeded in the fall. The monthly safety checks were made in the Town Hall, minor plumbing repairs were made to fountains, preparations for July 4th were done, tools were repaired and machinery was maintained and repaired where needed.

Over the month, because of the drought, the number of times of mowing of the parks and public areas was not necessary on a weekly basis but everything was kept trim as needed. Volunteer work by Bruce Rothrock, Don Henninger, Bill Robertson and several others allowed the work on the tennis courts and the barriers to be accomplished in an efficient and safe manner. Please stop and give a big thank you to all those who are helping with these projects.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Joe Clark

Charlie Challstrom was elected Chairman of the Commission.

The issue of the Deer Park Bridge was discussed and it was noted that the Town survey markers have been placed so that there is a clear understanding of what is Town property in the proximity of any proposed changes to the bridge. Also, the Planning Commission has a legal role to play if where was a change to the present structure and if the changes might impact the Town's Master Plan. The Commission Chairman will work closely with the Mayor and Council.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

We have an estimate from AB Viers on the cost to repave lower Ridge Road. To mill and replace the existing road would be \$50,105. However, if they need to add or replace the road bed it is an additional \$60 per ton to undercut with crushed stone.

To improve public safety several intersections in town will be painted (or repainted) with yellow edge to warn drivers of drop off at the corner. There are culverts on most of the corners selected.

CONTRACTS – Bill Robertson

Nothing to Report

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Bill Robertson

Nothing to Report

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

There is very little to report until after the Pepco/Asplundh work is done. A Grove Alert was sent out to all residents on August 1st for the work starting on August 3rd or 4th.

MONUMENTS – Audrey Maskery

A bench has been proposed to honor Dr. and Mrs. Horan. It would be located in Morgan Park. This has been discussed with Meredith Horan and the process is underway.

MAPLE LAKE – Sylvie Favret

Laminated signs were posted by Hutch and the Lake Committee with the Maple Lake regulations and the new Fishing Regulations. A copy of the Fishing Regulations is in your Council packet to review.

SAFETY – Sylvie Favret

Recent incidents in the parking area of Woodward Park resulted in several residents expressing concern about the gates being left open at night. I have suggested to a concerned resident that she should take the lead in developing a system by which both gates (Mulch Alley and Woodward Park) be closed at sundown every day similar to the committee in charge of the Lake gate.

