



**Call to Order:** Mayor John Compton called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:33 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** Peter Nagrod moved to approve the agenda. Eva Patrone seconded the motion.

*Action: Vote: 6-0, agenda approved.*

### ***Regular Business***

#### **Public Appearances:**

RASEC Committee member Paula Puglisi announced the resignation of the leadership team due to the unhealthy relationship between RASEC and the Town. The team has decided to become an advocacy group of volunteers independent from association with the Town government. A discussion about what this means for the existing Committee ensued.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

a) Treasurer Jean Moyer reported on the limited financial transactions in the first month of FY25. Eva Patrone moved to accept the Treasurers Report for July 2024. Peter Nagrod seconded the motion.

*Action: Vote: 6-0, report accepted.*

b) Film Society Proposal to Eliminate Admission Fees: Attendance has dwindled since COVID. The Committee asked the Council to approve waiving the fee for FY25 to see whether it would boost attendance. Peter Nagrod moved to approve the Film Society's proposal to drop admission fees. Eva seconded the motion.

*Action: Vote: 5-1 (Gilmore opposed), proposal passed.*

#### **Mayor's Report:**

a) *Kudos:*

- To Sustainability Committee volunteers for distributing compost from their pilot leaf mulch project to the Hall landscape beds.
- To Meadow Committee volunteers who worked with the Weed Warrior Program removing non-native invasive plants from the meadow.

b) *Labor Day weekend events:* Mayor Compton announced that new for 2024 will be a Grove 3K Foot Race. This year - again - would not include the formerly popular and traditional Grove Triathlon. He talked about the tradition and pondered whether we might spark interest in resuming the race.

- c) *Roadwork Status:* The planned repaving work will take place in various places around Town on the coming Wednesday and Friday.
- d) *Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance RFP:* The Town Council held the first bidder interview with Biohabitats in a closed session July 30. The interview with SMI Environmental will take place in a special Town Council meeting tomorrow evening.
- e) *Shared Use Pathway Status:* MCDOT continues obtaining required approvals leading towards scheduling a date this fall for the mandatory referral review by the Planning Commission.
- f) *Old Town Gaithersburg to Washington Grove Pathway Project:* New funding for completion of engineering work has been awarded to Gaithersburg.
- g) *“State of the District” event at McCathran Hall:* The theme will be Environmental Justice and concerns of the residents of District 39. It will take place on Saturday, October 19. Delegate Gabriel Acevero is hosting the event.
- h) *Energy Audit:* An energy audit of McCathran Hall is planned. There was a brief discussion about the difficulties of insulating and air conditioning the main Hall.
- i) *Maintenance of Unoccupied Properties Subcommittee:* The Council subcommittee has started their work to recommend how the Council should address this issue.
- j) *Parliamentary Education:* The approved training session for Town Councilors and invited Chairs has been scheduled for Sunday October 13.

**Administrative Matters:**

***Town Policy on snow removal*** – Discussion. The Mayor and Council discussed the current snow removal policy. Resuming use of salt, sand, and brine was discussed. There only appear to be a few select areas where ice buildup would benefit from the use of sand or salt. Pre-treatment with de-icing liquid ahead of a storm was suggested. However, sand application as needed was the consensus opinion.

*Action: Mayor Compton will talk to Jim Quinn (RJ Landscapers) about a plan.*

***Current Business***

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Education** – Discussion of Proposals and Council Action.

Barbara Raimondo reviewed the two comprehensive DEI education sessions proposed for presentation by Leadership Montgomery consisting of 1) a three-hour community/group session followed by 2) a three-session series for 20 interested town and committee leaders. Barbara and Mary Warfield received positive responses from their references. Adding the individual IDI evaluations proposed by RASEC was discussed, but consensus was that this could be considered after evaluating the Leadership Montgomery sessions. It was moved and seconded to approve the two Leadership Montgomery education proposals.

*Action: Vote: 6-0, proposals accepted.*

**Restoration Planning for the Conservation Meadow** – Presentation by Bruce Daggy and Discussion.

Bruce Daggy shared the results of discussions between the Meadows Committee and the County's Parks Department concerning maintenance of the Conservation Meadow. He explained that the original Meadow Management Plan had not been well executed and that the field area was no longer strictly a meadow. In addition to non-native invasive flora, native cedars have proliferated, interfering with the meadow biohabitat, meadow views, and promoting conversion of the area to early forest. Restoration of meadow status would require removal of many of the cedars, and a plan for removal in two phases has been discussed. Bruce thanked Dave Cosson for keeping records of the commitment of the Town to support the field as meadow and talked about the importance of taking action to restore it. Council exchanged views about the value of the trees to animal life and as a sound barrier.

*Action: Further discussion and any Council action will await a formal recommendation to restore the meadow*

**Playground Survey Results** – Presentation and Discussion. The Mayor and Council reviewed and discussed the results of the survey. Mayor Compton thanked Eva Patrone for spearheading this project. Eva thanked Peggy Booher for her help with the survey. She explained the positive changes that had already been accomplished at the playground. Eva will be stepping away from Playground matters for a while and new equipment will have to wait until at least next year.

**Review of Speed Bump Placement on Chestnut Road** – Mayor Compton noted resident complaints concerning excess speed on Chestnut Road and suggested the Council consider added traffic calming. One possibility could be a speed bump cross the entire width of the road at one of the stop lines at the Oak, Center, or Acorn intersections. Council discussion addressed a “Your Speed is \_\_\_\_\_” display, or blinking signs.

*Action: Peter Nagrod will bring a traffic calming proposal to the Council.*

**Town Council Reports** – Mayor Compton made note of the following:

- *Woodward Park (Patrone)* – Playground Survey results reported. See also “New Business.”
- *DEI Education (Raimondo)* – Per RASEC suggestion, more metrics should be added for Leadership Montgomery programs (see Agenda item above).
- *Lake (Warfield)* – Diving board installed, and other maintenance tasks performed by volunteers.
- *Gateway (Nagrod)* – Volunteers have been refurbishing the “McCathran Hall” signs at McCauley Street and Chestnut Road entrances to the Grove.
- *Maintenance (Nagrod)* – The vehicle access part of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue re-graveled. Ridge Road speed bump signage updated.

Peter Nagrod moved to approve the August Town Council Reports for posting on the website.

*Action: Vote: 6-0, Town Council Reports approved.*

**Approval of Minutes**

- Barbara Raimondo moved to approve the Town Council minutes from 16 April 2024. Mary Warfield seconded the motion.  
*Action: Vote: 6-0, Minutes approved.*
- Barbara Raimondo moved to approve the Town Council minutes from 8 July 2024. There was a second.  
*Action: Vote: 6-0, Minutes approved.*

**Next Meetings**

- Virtual on Tuesday August 13, 2024, at 7:30 pm.
- Virtual on Monday September 9, 2024, at 7:30 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Kathryn L. Lehman