

GLEN ECHO TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2007

Attendance: Debbie Beers, Mayor
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Eve Arber, Councilmember
Steve Matney, Councilmember
Julia Wilson, Clerk's substitute

Visitors: Kym Elder, NPS
Tom Helf, Echo reporter
Eleanor Balaban, resident
Robin Kogelnik, resident
Gloria Levin, resident

Mayor Beers called the meeting to order at 8:10.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2007-07 to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2007, Town Council meeting, as amended:

- Page 3, paragraph 4: She ~~recommended a "wait and see" what other small municipalities choose to do and~~ expressed concern that towns not joining a street light transfer could be doubly penalized.

Motion passed as amended.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Kym Elder reported that there may soon be temporary closures on Tulane and Oberlin avenues to remove large equipment. She said she has discussed the idea with the NPS superintendent about resurfacing those streets when construction is over. There is no firm 2008 budget so she can't say whether there will be money in the budget to rebuild maintenance facility, but she said she thinks the funds will be available. The NPS has scrapped the idea of a 2-story building for this building; they are still considering whether it should have showers, bathrooms for the workers or just keep it as a maintenance shed for equipment. In either case, it will be a one-story structure.

Ms. Elder said projects still to come are stabilizing and rehabilitating the Chrystal Pool facade, stabilizing the caretaker's cottage, and rehabilitating the Hall of Mirrors.

The NPS has sought bids to stabilize the pier of the bridge over Minnehaha Creek. Ms. Elder said there will be some disturbance of the surrounding natural environment because the equipment will be needed for the project is heavy-duty. They will try to minimize the impact on the area.

The staff at Glen Echo Park and the Clara Barton National Historic Site (NHS) has submitted two proposals for NPS funds to be available as part of the NPS centennial

which is coming up in 2016; one to do a civil rights exhibit in the Candy Corner and another to recreate Ms. Barton's barn which would serve as an administrative building, visitors center, and restroom for the handicapped. Ms. Elder stressed these are only proposals, first the NPS needs to get Congressional funding and then matching funding before the proposals can be considered.

Ms. Elder said Sean McCabe has been very grateful for Town Council support of his input concerning the MacArthur Boulevard bikeway project. She is encouraging him to discuss the proposals for the bikeway improvement and other interests at a Town Council meeting.

The Yellow Barn is officially open to the public. Proposals are being reviewed for two new artists in residence to occupy two studios on the second floor.

Staff member Charlie Burns has retired after 34 years at Glen Echo Park. Ms. Elder said she would like to hire a new gardener, but she doesn't know if there will be money to fill that position.

Glen Echo Park is accepting applications for the Youth Conservation Corps for this summer. Applicants must be ages 15-18. In addition there will be a Junior Ranger camp at Clara Barton NHS during the summer.

April 28th is the date for Family Fun Day and the annual open house date at the Clara Barton NHS.

Ms. Elder also mentioned that there has been a shakeup of the board of directors of Discovery Creek, but she does not know the details of the situation.

FY 2007-08 BUDGET HEARING

Mayor Beers said the hearing date will be set at the May meeting because it needs to be held within two weeks of the distribution of the budget.

STREET REPAIR PROJECT REPORT

Councilmember Matney said he has asked for two quotes for the plan to study what we need to do to the streets and sidewalks in town. One is from A. Morton Thomas, which came in at \$4,000. The other firm has not come in with a quote yet.

MEETING REPORTS

The meeting with Councilmember Berliner will have to be rescheduled.

Mayor Beers attended the County Permitting Services meeting with other representatives from other municipalities. She said it will not be a one-size-fits-all agreement because the various municipalities have different needs. Mayor Beers would like the county to give the town notice when a resident has applied for a building permit.

Council members Arber, Long and Macy attended the bikeway improvement meeting in Rockville. Councilmember Arber said that were environmental issues raised – specifically storm water management. She said there is no way for a drainage system to go over or under the bikeway because of the existing aqueduct. A. Morton Thomas, the construction company under contract to Montgomery County on the bikeway project, has said they will bring in lighter-weight equipment to do the work. Sean McCabe from the NPS informed the county that the NPS would need to do an environmental assessment of the project, and NPS permits would be required due to the proximity of NPS property in several locations along the route, including property NPS leases from the Army Corps of Engineers.

TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE REPORT

Waterproofing work will soon be done on the cupola; the cost is \$850.

The HVAC project has been completed.

There was a discussion about the new tables the town would like to purchase and Councilmember Arber asked if the town could buy one and try it out before purchasing the whole order. Mayor Beers approved the request.

ARTICLE 3, DUMPSTER ORDINANCE

This item was tabled until a later date.

TOWN HALL USE REPORT

Councilmember Long reported that on April 22, the Chautauqua Series will present resident Phyllis Daen and her music group. The Pilates workshops will begin on April 12 and continue through June 14.

On May 25, the Folklore Society will sponsor a concert. On June 24, the Chautauqua Series will present resident and author Melinda Henneberger, who will discuss and sign her book, “If They Only Listened to Us.”

MML REPORT

Councilmember Arber said there was nothing to report. She also asked if council members should think about attending the annual convention in Ocean City. Mayor Beers said the town would pay if council members wished to attend. Councilmember Long said it is a good idea to attend the convention at least once.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Beers announced that resident Gloria Levin will take on the project to research whether the town should consider buying the streetlights from PEPCO or not.

Mayor Beers brought up the Chapel Valley proposal to provide plantings along the fence at Shirley’s Park. Councilmember Long suggested they table the proposal and have a landscape architect to prepare a plan first. Mayor Beers said she would like the plan to

include the Harvard Avenue entryway and both town parks. She said she would like three bids. Councilmember Long said she would get the bids and that she was interested in getting bids from town residents who are also landscapers.

The proposed ordering of the Country Casual benches and new plant materials for Shirley's Park was tabled until after the landscaping issue has been decided.

Mayor Beers reported the Montgomery County off-duty police hired by the Town have been monitoring Oxford Road traffic on the weekends and have been issuing tickets. Resident Gloria Levin asked if the street markings at the intersections on Oxford Road could be repainted. Ms. Levin also suggested a thank you note be sent to Mark Peyton for his excellent service clearing snow this winter. Mayor Beers agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm.