

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2007

Attendance: Nancy Long, Councilmember
Eve Arber, Councilmember
Steve Matney, Councilmember
Robin Kogelnik, Councilmember
Cathie Polak, Clerk

Visitors: Gerry Bodlander, Echo Reporter
Phyllis Fordham, Resident
Raya Bodnarchuk, Resident
Michael Brintnall, Resident

Councilmember Long, in Mayor Beers' absence, opened the meeting at 8:06. She invited Mr. Bodlander to ask questions if something being discussed was not clear.

Resident Phyllis Fordham first said she is glad to hear that Council is pursuing a street engineering study. She then noted improved communication between Council and residents and said it would helpful be if the Council meeting minutes were posted on the web site. C/T Polak noted that the minutes have been posted on the web site since October 2006. Ms. Fordham then expressed concern about a recent article in the Echo about a voter eligibility inconsistency in the recent election. Ms. Fordham said the town needs to change its voting systems and maintain better residency records. Councilmember Long said that Norman Knopf has been asked to look into the town's voter requirements.

Phyllis Fordham also wanted to make the comment, after the fact, that she is opposed to the Harvard Avenue entryway approved in the Budget. Councilmember Arber asked if Ms. Fordham would like another kind of Town identification. Ms. Fordham is opposed to any identification of Town, saying she would like to keep Glen Echo a secret. Resident Mike Brintnall agreed, stating he is opposed to a stone entryway, flower planters or other markers at Harvard Avenue or any other street in Town.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Councilmember Long noted that Kym Elder, GEP Site Manager, would not attend the July Town Council meeting. Councilmember Long reported that the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) elected a new board at the last meeting. GEPPAC reported that the annual fundraising GALA was very successful, raising \$98,000 plus pledges. Councilmember Long expressed concern that a GEPPAC Board member inquired about the Park's capacity for camps, indicating that they might consider increasing the current campers by 400.

Councilmember Long said GEP is maxed out with current space available; there is no space for additional camps. However, there is room for additional buildings to provide more rental space, thereby increasing use of the park, and causing potential problems for the Town.

Phyllis Fordham expressed concern over GEP and traffic problems on Oxford Road; she was adamant that a separate Park entrance should be off MacArthur Boulevard. Councilmember Matney provided his opinion of the reasons, both fiscal and environmental, that a separate entrance would never happen. Councilmember Long provided historical information from a public meeting held approximately 20 years ago where the NPS showed an alternative entrance near the current entry off MacArthur Boulevard. This alternative entrance showed Park visitors turning right, over the Minnehaha Creek, and into the parking lot. Councilmember Long said the alternative entrance was not a realistic proposal because of budget constraints.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Long asked if there were changes to the proposed minutes.

Motion 2007-14 to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2007, Town Council meeting as amended:

- Page 4, paragraph 5: National Park Service/GEP has agreed to do the repair work to the streets
Motion passed as amended.

STREET REPAIR PROJECT

At her request, Councilmember Matney first provided a review of the street repair project for Councilmember Kogelnik. A. Morton Thomas' (AMT) proposal is now \$9,200; they agreed to include four (4) core samples, points to be determined by AMT. EBA Engineering's original bid was \$13,000, including 24 core samples. EBA said they would include traffic calming and sidewalks in the survey. Radcliffe Lane should be removed from the EBA survey; Oberlin, Tulane and Bowdoin Avenues need to be added. EBA did not note how the changes would affect the bid.

Comments from further discussion were:

- Councilmember Matney noted that Takoma Park gave a positive recommendation to EBA for a similar project.
- Councilmember Kogelnik commented that the survey fees appear similar, based on the number of core samples.
- Councilmember Arber mentioned that the EBA proposal must include the bid, solicitation, review and recommendation for the final project.
- Councilmember Kogelnik wants to make certain traffic calming is included in the EBA proposal. Resident Mike Brintnall is opposed to speed bumps; they are only an annoyance to citizens.
- Councilmember Matney agrees that the EBA proposal needs to be "tightened."
- Councilmember Kogelnik said that seems as though Councilmember Matney supports EBA with a clearer statement of services, to include traffic calming, Tulane, Oberlin and Bowdoin Avenue and the entire bid process.
- Councilmember Matney expressed concern about allowing the engineering firm to handle the bid process; Council members explained that the firm would be an agent of the Town and eligible to complete the bid process on its behalf.
- Mike Brintnall asked what is the reason for not choosing the lowest bid. Councilmember Matney explained that Council is not required to choose the lowest bid; Council may review and consider all the information available before selecting a bid.

MOTION 2007-15 to accept the EBA Engineering, Inc. proposal to perform a street repair survey with the following additions and changes to the proposal: include traffic calming; remove Radcliffe Lane from the survey; add Tulane, Oberlin and Bowdoin Avenues to the survey; include a clear statement of the complete bid package (solicitation through selection and recommendation). The revised bid may not exceed \$15,000. Motion passed unanimously.

C/T Polak asked for estimated start date and timeline for the project. Councilmember Matney said he would try to get the scheduling information.

There was some discussion about possibly having the storm drain survey and street survey conducted simultaneously. The general sense was that it would be very difficult to coordinate contractors from a Montgomery County storm drain project with a Town street repair project.

TOWN PARK LANDSCAPE

Councilmember Long said she is expecting a plan from Trace, Inc. a landscape architecture design and planning company; two additional meetings were cancelled. Councilmember Long said she rejected one landscaping planner that requested a \$500 deposit. Council said they felt \$500 was an acceptable fee to have a landscape architect draw up a plan.

Councilmember Long thanked Councilmember Arber for the Maryland Municipal League (MML) grant program information, noting that MML acts as a clearing house for information, but does not provide grants itself. The information provided described grant programs of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation designed primarily for urban areas. One of them may apply to Glen Echo; she will get more information on the grant. The Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation offers beatification grants which Councilmember Long will further investigate; she learned of these grants from a meeting of the West Montgomery Citizens Advisory Committee she attended on June 18.

TOWN HALL USE

The upcoming town hall use was reviewed by Councilmember Long. FSGW has requested use during the 2007-08 winter months for the Family Dance programs.

“Pan’s Labyrinth” will be shown at the July 14 film festival.

The annual Town picnic will be held July 21, from 5-7 p.m.

MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (MML)

Councilmember Arber noted that the monthly chapter meetings for June were held at the annual MML Convention in Ocean City, Maryland. New Officers were elected at the Convention.

DPS NOTIFICATION

C/T Polak reported that, as of July 1, Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services is notifying the Town office when a resident applies for a building or fence permit. The clerk will then send a reminder to that resident that a Glen Echo permit is required prior to beginning any construction.

VERIZON FIOS INSTALLATION PERMIT

C/T Polak presented a letter from Verizon (attached) requesting a permit to bore into Town streets and home owners' properties for residents requesting this service; only homes on the side of the street without poles may require installation under a street. Council was opposed to random boring; they requested an explanation as to why Verizon is not running the cable overhead.

STREET CLOSING

Review of Article 19 indicates that street closings are up to the Town. Council agreed that a policy and process need be established for residents who wish to close a street for a private event. Councilmember Matney, who did an internet search, expressed concern that there are liability issues and thinks a street closing policy should be reviewed by Norman Knopf prior to implementation.

Council suggested that any Glen Echo resident requesting a street closing permit should:

- Appear before Council a minimum of 30 days in advance;
- Provide hours and date;
- Provide estimated attendance;
- Notify neighbors on closed streets

The Town will need to provide traffic cones or sawhorses.

STORM DRAINS

Councilmember Kogelnik reported that she has a meeting with Mayor Beers later this week to get an update on the Town's Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation contacts and background information on the Town's storm drain issues.

PETITION FOR CROSSWALK LIGHT

Councilmember Long reported that there is a petition, initiated by Carlotta Anderson, circulating for residents to sign. This petition is addressed to Montgomery County officials requesting a crosswalk light at Princeton Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.