

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 8, 2007**

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

Visitors: Eleanor Balaban, Resident  
Tom Helf, Echo Reporter  
James Gibney, Resident  
Maryse Rhein, Resident

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8:02, noting that Kym Elder, Site Manager, Glen Echo Park, was not in attendance.

Mayor Beers invited resident James Gibney to address Council. Mr. Gibney asked council to remove a yellow curb strip in front of his house because there is no longer a driveway and or curb cut. He explained that parking is at a premium in front of his house, stating that he and nearby residents ignore the yellow strip. Mayor Beers suggested he paint over the yellow strip because the town does not have the resources to remove one yellowed curb.

**GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT**

Councilmember Long reported that repair is underway on the bridge over Minnehaha Creek, explaining that the work is to stabilize the north abutment with concrete and then front it with stone.

Mayor Beers asked Councilmember Long to request that Kym Elder report on the proposed Oxford Road traffic changes at the November Council meeting. Councilmember Long then mentioned the GEP staff's concern about drainage from the house at the top of Oxford Road (5906), where drainage from this property flows down the GEP exit road. The overflow freezes in the colder months and creates a traffic hazard for exiting motorists.. Council agreed that the street repair engineers should address this problem.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 2007-20** to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2007, Town Council meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**STREET REPAIR PROJECT**

Councilmember Matney began his report with a brief summary of differences between the A. Morton Thomas (AMT) and EBA Engineering (EBA) street survey bids (attached). He reported

that EBA Engineering submitted a revised bid, which now includes Tulane, Oberlin and Bowdoin Avenues, for \$14,192.80.

Mayor Beers asked for assurance that EBA will handle the entire bid process, ending with a recommendation. Councilmember Matney said EBA would charge an additional \$12,000 for the bid package and traffic calming, noting that these fees were bundled because they are done through a different department within EBA.

Councilmember Kogelnik noted that the EBA bid is now \$26,000; A. Morton Thomas needs to be given an opportunity to update their proposal to include a bid package. Councilmember Kogelnik said there is time within the strategic plan to get a similar bid from AMT before making a final decision. Council agreed; Councilmember Kogelnik will go back to AMT for an upgraded proposal.

Councilmember Long asked if Montgomery County has developed any potentially helpful information from the recent storm drain survey that might have significance for our plans; Mayor Beers will call Mr. Mitchell from the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation (MC/DPWT).

C/T Polak reported that the approved E. E. Lyons street repairs have been completed. Councilmember Long noted that is an expanding hole in the pavement at the left of the Post Office front door.

#### **TOWN PARKS /LANDSCAPE**

Councilmember Long presented a proposal, which could be phased in, from John Shorb Landscaping company for \$22,800. Council likes the plan and complimented Councilmember Long but is concerned about watering new as well as mature plants. (The plan does include some drought resistant plants and a system of berms designed to regulate water flow on the site.) Councilmember Kogelnik suggested negotiating a bid for \$20,000.

C/T Polak asked about other bids. Councilmember Long explained:

- Trace submitted a bid;
- she contacted LeMieux Landscape Design and met with Mr. LeMieux, who would charge \$500 for drawing up a plan whether we would choose his proposal or not;
- she contacted Martha Donnelly and Associates, Mark Wilshire, Michael McCarthy, and a friend of resident Mary Tweedie's in Fairway Hill – all were too busy to consider our project.

Mayor Beers asked about time frame; Councilmember Long said probably spring for planting. Councilmember Arber suggested having the hardscaping done this fall.

**Motion 2007-21** to accept the bid from John Shorb Landscaping at \$20,000, with negotiation up to \$22,800 for minor changes. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Long mentioned that assorted grants were reviewed but none fit the Town's requirements.

### **TOWN HALL USE**

Councilmember Long reviewed the upcoming calendar, noting:

Halloween party – October 31;

Film Festival – “Behind the Mask,” a movie claiming to be set in Glen Echo, but actually set in another state -- October 13.

There was a request from FSGW to hold the Family Dance in the town hall year-round; the request was denied because Glen Echo Park is available during the warmer months, where the Family Dance has been held for years.

### **MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (MML)**

Councilmember Arber reported that the September meeting was held in the Garrett Park Town Hall, hosted by Caroline Hawker, Garret Park's mayor. Brian Feldman was a speaker and discussed proposed state tax increases and slot machines. Mayor Beers inquired about MML's position on slot machine. Councilmember Arber said MML is taking no position.

The second speaker was Police Captain Russ Hammel. According to Councilmember Arber, it was clear from his responses to questions asked, that Capt. Hammel had “done his research” on each municipality.

Councilmember Arber also reported that Montgomery County plans an increase in red light cameras at problem intersections.

The next meeting will be on October 25, at the Kensington Town Hall. Councilmember Kogelnik indicated an interest in attending the MML meeting.

The annual MML Legislative dinner will be held Thursday, November 29 at the Golden Bull in Gaithersburg.

### **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

1. Community contribution: Carlotta Anderson provided an overview of the Potomac Conservancy mission and requested a contribution from the Town. Councilmember Long asked about the overhead expenses for the Potomac Conservancy which includes paid staff and rent for office space; Ms. Anderson did not know the amount.

**Motion 2007- 22** to donate \$200 to the Potomac Conservancy. Motion passed unanimously.

Carlotta Anderson donated a book to the Town, Our Potomac from Great Falls through Washington, D.C., by Roy Sewall for the Town's library. Council thanked her for the beautiful donation.

2. Citizens Advisory Committee for the Montgomery County Police: Norman Hudson-Taylor will no longer be the Town's representative to this committee; Renny Springuel will now attend

the meetings for Glen Echo. Mayor Beers will write a thank-you letter to Norman Hudson-Taylor.

3. Princeton Avenue/MacArthur Blvd. crosswalk and traffic: Councilmember Kogelnik reported that she has been in contact with Bannockburn Citizens Association, who is very interested in working with the Town to provide safer crossings on MacArthur Boulevard. She asked for copies of all correspondence between Carlotta Anderson and Montgomery County; explaining that the different groups and individuals need to work together for a stronger voice. Councilmember Long noted that there are two different Bannockburn communities; the correct name for the area across from Glen Echo is Bannockburn Civic Association. The other Bannockburn community is on the other side of Wilson Lane; it is the older of the two and bears the name Bannockburn Citizens Association. (The two groups are sensitive about their respective designations.) Councilmember Long reported that she contacted Mr. Nathan Cohen of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine exactly what authority along MacArthur Boulevard, which is owned by the Corps, was given over to Montgomery County. The general belief is that police and maintenance responsibilities were accepted by Montgomery County. Councilmember Arber added that MML is looking for a volunteer to sit on the Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.