

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2008**

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

Visitors: Raya Bodnarchuk, Resident, USPS Trucks
Bill Turque, Echo Reporter

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. She then invited Raya Bodnarchuk to address Council.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (USPS) OVERSIZED TRUCKS

Ms. Bodnarchuk, who lives on Harvard Avenue directly across from the Post Office and Town Hall driveway, asked Council to request that the USPS limit the size of trucks used to service our Post Office. She explained that, on December 14, at 11:45 a.m., a USPS truck was attempting to make a turn into the driveway when the driver pushed on her fence until it broke (the horizontal bar was split by the pressure) and he was able to get the truck into the driveway. When Ms. Bodnarchuk confronted the driver he was non-responsive; she felt certain that, had she not been at home to witness the damage, the driver would have driven off without making an incident report or any attempt at restitution. With the help of Glen Echo Postmaster Harrison, USPS Supervisor Wanda Greer came to the site of the accident to file a report on behalf of Ms. Bodnarchuk. Mayor Beers asked how many times the fence has been damaged by USPS trucks: Ms. Bodnarchuk responded twice.

Mayor Beers agreed to write a letter supporting Ms. Bodnarchuk's request. An alternative suggestion will be made to the USPS that larger trucks park on Harvard Avenue near the right-of-way; these trucks should not attempt to enter the Town Hall driveway. Ms. Bodnarchuk will provide the name and address for the letter.

There were further discussions about several problems with USPS lease. The USPS lease, to be renegotiated in 2011, will require careful review and substantial changes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2008-1 to approve as presented the November 9, 2007, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion 2008-2 to approve as presented the December 14, 2007, Town Council meeting

minutes with verification from Kym Elder on the NPS right-of-way acquisition. Motion unanimously approved.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Site Manager Kym Elder was not in attendance; Mayor Beers invited Councilmember Long to report on Glen Echo Park (GEP).

Councilmember Long reported that Gwendolyn T. Britt, a Prince George's County state senator, recently passed away. Senator Britt was one of the original protesters calling for desegregation of Glen Echo Amusement Park in 1960; she was arrested for attempting to ride the carousel during that protest. There will be a memorial service Friday, January 18.

Councilmember Long also reported that she attended the January 9 Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) Board meeting. Councilmember Matney asked if the question of Popcorn Gallery's limited hours of operation, especially during the recent holidays, was raised. Councilmember Long explained that GEPPAC said it does not have the staff to keep the gallery open, except for weekends. GEPPAC has received an additional \$689K of the expected \$750K from the Federal government; Montgomery County and the Maryland State government will each provide \$750K.

Beginning in the fall, A Cleveland Park child care organization will be temporarily housed in the Spanish ballroom and in the Arcade in the afternoon. This will further increase traffic on Oxford Road on weekdays. It is planned that the children will participate in Park classes.

Other highlights from the GEPPAC meeting were:

NPS has taken over responsibility for the alarm system; GEPPAC and Montgomery County have not been able to solve the false alarms that occur in the Ballroom and North Arcade;

GEPPAC plans to conduct a survey to determine the reasons people come to the Park;

GEPPAC plans to increase rental space in GEP;

the civil rights museum originally planned for the Candy Corner has been moved to the first floor of the Chautauqua Tower.

GEPPAC will now be renting three floors of the Tower and the Candy Corner; the first floor will be rented on a temporary basis until there is funding for the civil rights museum.

STREET REPAIR PROJECT REPORT

Councilmember Kogelnik reported that Bob Harrison will be the A. Morton Thomas (AMT) lead engineer for the town's street repair survey. The initial site meeting will be during the first week of February.

LANDSCAPE REPORT

Councilmember Long reported that Shorb Landscaping is ready to begin the stone work in Shirley's Park. The town needs to purchase the bench to be installed on the stonework.

There were several offers to store the bench on nearby properties.

CHAPEL VALLEY CONTRACT

C/T Polak reported that the current landscaping contract would be reduced by \$2000 if Council opts to have Shorb Landscaping manage the Town parks through the guarantee phase of the plantings (1 year). She expressed concern about maintaining the areas until the new landscaping work begins; Council agreed that Chapel Valley should maintain the Town parks on an hourly basis until Shorb actually begins the work.

No decision was made on who would maintain the Town parks once the new landscaping is completed.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long provided the Town Hall use report attached to these minutes. She reported on the arrangements for the memorial for former resident Joan Foster on January 26.

Councilmember Matney added that “Nell” is the movie for February 9.

MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (MML)

Councilmember Arber reported that the January MML meeting is tomorrow.

CHARTER AMENDMENT

Mayor Beers explained that, because of questions raised about the eligibility of some voters during the last election, she asked Town attorney, Norman Knopf, to review the Town’s charter and recommend changes that would clarify and tighten voter qualifications to be consistent with Montgomery County. Mayor Beers would like to open a council meeting for general discussion, before introducing a charter amendment.

Additional comments were:

Councilmember Matney questioned a section where a renter or resident who planned a lengthy leave would not be able to vote; suggested eliminating this section because there was not a similar statement in the Montgomery County Code.

Mayor Beers would like the requirements to follow state and county rules—a voter should have a stake in the town election;

There needs to be an objective standard for non-citizens to vote; green card holders seem the likely place to make the standard.

Councilmember Kogelnik asked for Mr. Knopf to attend the February Council meeting;

Mayor Beers asked that The Echo publish that there has only been an introductory discussion on a charter amendment. The Echo should report that further discussion on voter qualification will be on the February agenda. Residents are encouraged to attend this Council meeting or submit their comments.

TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE

1. Town Hall painting: C/T Polak reported that she believes the Town Hall needs to be painted. Council agreed and approved getting bids for painting the exterior of the building.
2. Bathroom sinks: Council agreed to replacing the sinks and faucets in the bathrooms on the landing.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Town Council Minutes
January 16, 2008
Page PAGE 4