

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 8, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor  
Nancy Long, Councilmember  
Eve Arber, Councilmember  
Steve Matney, Councilmember  
Dan Macy, Councilmember  
Cathie Polak, Clerk

VISITORS: Polly Angelakis, Site Manger, Glen Echo Park (GEP)  
Bob Harrison, A. Morton Thomas (AMT)  
David Chitwood, Echo Reporter  
Raya Bodnarchuk, Resident  
Debbie Lange, Resident  
Peter Somerville, Resident

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8 p.m.

**GLEN ECHO PARK**

MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway

GEP Site Manager Polly Angelakis reported on a National Park Service (NPS) meeting with Montgomery County on the proposed MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway. The County proposes detouring the bike path off MacArthur Boulevard at Oxford Road through GEP, using the trolley right-of-way and the trestle bridge. According to Ms. Angelakis, the Park responded with approximately 40 written comments, mainly related to safety. She noted that the NPS prefers that the path connect with the upper parking lot along the Boulevard. Council's responses and comments were:

- Site Manager Polly Angelakis voiced concern that bicyclists have no interaction with automobiles, suggesting an "S" turn into the upper parking lot, rather than crossing a road used by cars.
- Councilmember Arber asked if environmental impact studies would be required for new construction; Ms. Angelakis indicated that there may be a way to avoid having to do the impact studies.
- Councilmember Long inquired about any endangered plant species in the area of Minnehaha Creek that the trestle crosses; Ms. Angelakis said that she believed plant life would not be disturbed.
- Councilmember Macy asked about the trolley trestle, stating that he believes the uphill grade from the trestle would be unfeasible, especially for families with children; he believes bicyclers would return to MacArthur Boulevard to avoid the steep climb.
- Councilmember Matney noted that the current bus stop would be lost if the bike path goes into the Park.

- Ms. Angelakis said she would contact Montgomery County about their plans for maintaining the bus stop and addressing the steep grade out of and into the Park from the upper parking lot.

Councilmember Long stated the Council should request a meeting with the County bikeway planners.

#### Oxford Road

Mayor Beers said that the Town has not yet received the copy of the NPS response on Oxford Road ownership, as promised by Superintendent Dottie Marshall at the April Town Council meeting. Ms. Angelakis indicated she would “check on the letter” for Mayor Beers.

The May 24 open house at the Clara Barton NHS was well attended. The annual Folk Life Festival, held May 30-31, was very successful, with an estimated 12,000 visitors.

On both festival days, Councilmember Long observed that cars parked on the grass, off Oxford Road, were leaving the parking lot by driving over the new drain installed by Montgomery County DPWT; she was concerned that this structure was not intended to bear the weight of automobiles. A barricade should be placed on the drain during events using the grass for parking; Ms. Angelakis said this would be done by NPS.

Ms. Angelakis asked if the traffic controlling barricades, placed at each Glen Echo entrance, could be left up overnight; Council agreed, provided they were moved onto the grass at night.

The GEPPAC Gala was well attended; Councilmember Long was an honoree, receiving the GEPPAC Individual Achievement Award.

Mayor Beers noted that the playground resurfacing is complete. Ms. Angelakis reported that an additional climbing structure, the Jungle-Rescue, has been funded and is on order.

#### **STREET REPAIR PROJECT**

Mayor Beers and Councilmember Matney debated over the issue of closing the meeting during bid selection for the street repair project. Councilmember Matney said Federal bid selection is conducted during closed sessions and argued that the Town’s street repair bid selection should be held in a closed meeting in order to prevent the disclosure of proprietary pricing information. Mayor Beers quoted the Sunshine Act, explaining that Council must conduct the bid selection during an open meeting. She noted that, when Council is spending tax monies, meetings should be open. Councilmember Macy asked what are the criteria for selection and if there are any requisites for selection. Mayor Beers read through the current bidding ordinance, which does not require decisions to be made during a closed meeting.

Bob Harrison, AMT, provided his recommendation from an overview of the bids received (see attached).

Discussion and comments on the street project bids were:

- Councilmember Matney provided a spread sheet on the three lowest bids (see attached), noting that Ross Contracting had no working web site, Pleasants Construction appears to be two different companies and, D & F Construction has no major milling and resurfacing work experience. Numbers 1, 3,7, 8, have worked on State projects
- Councilmember Arber asked if Ross has done milling as well as paving. Mr. Harrison responded that Ross is doing the milling and surfacing work on River Road and suggested Council take a look at the project management and the finished project.
- AMT expressed concern that Ross has been non-responsive to their attempts at contact.
- Councilmember Macy asked for clarification of the State Highway Administration (SHA) rating. Mr. Harrison said the rating is only done annually for state projects, can be for a single project, and the rating could be based on the prime or sub contractor. A rating of "B" is above average.
- Mayor Beers noted that the Town needs to look closely at project costs; there is a \$150K difference between the first and fourth bids.
- Ross did the repair project for the Union Arch Bridge.
- Bob Harrison noted the extremely wide range in the bids. AMT's bid estimates, done by Mr. Harrison, were much higher.
- AMT reviewed all documents and all bidding.
- AMT spoke highly of the Friendship Heights project because there was an on-site inspector for the project. The Friendship Heights project was twice as large as Glen Echo's.
- C/T Polak noted that her concern is project management and how it relates to residents' ability to get to and from their homes.
- AMT said project management, as well as quality of the asphalt and quality of the work, is the responsibility of an on-site inspector.
- Mayor Beers noted that an advantage of selecting one of the two lower bids is that additional funds would be available for an on-site inspector.
- Mr. Harrison had concerns about weight restrictions on MacArthur Boulevard, noting that the routes to and into Town must be made clear to company selected. He thought that additional permit costs could be a reason for the wide range of bids: bidders may or may not have included permit fees.
- Councilmember Macy asked if asphalt quality is the same for all companies. Mr. Harrison responded that they are the same.
- Pleasants is ready to start at the end of June; Ross could start July 13.
- Mr. Harrison suggested taking Council's questions directly to the contractors.
- Councilmember Macy noted drainage issues and spring controls on Oxford Road. Mr. Harrison said that these are part of the bid documents. Gutters, underground pipe lines, plus crowning Oxford Road, should solve the problems.

- Mr. Harrison said the bids include a general amount for sidewalks to be replaced; the specific locations are to be determined. The Town can add to sidewalk repairs at the same rate of the selected bid.
- There is a unit cost for everything (streets, sidewalks, curbs, etc); the Town can add or deduct before the project begins.
- Mayor Beers supports selecting the lowest bid, noting that there will then be funds for inspectors and change orders.
- Mayor Beers suggested a special meeting to make the bid selection.
- Councilmember Long asked if a subcontracting company could be called away to work on other projects during the Town's project. Mr. Harrison said it is a possibility.
- Councilmember Long asked if Oxford Road would be done last since it is the truck entryway.
- Further discussions ensued on project details, such as: milling, crowning, tree roots, order of street repair and repairs at MacArthur Blvd. intersections.
- Mr. Harrison said he will "vet the low bidders" and bring their responses to a special meeting
- Mayor Beers asked for a timeline for decision; Mr. Harrison will do reference checks, and prepare memo for specific questions before the next meeting.
- Special meeting set for Monday, June 22, 8 p.m.

The remaining agenda items were tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55.