

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
November 9, 2009**

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

VISITORS: Polly Angelakis, Site Manager, Glen Echo Park (GEP)  
Tom Helf, Echo Reporter

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8:00.

**GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT**

Ms. Angelakis reported that the Clara Barton National Historic Site (CBNHS) has received a National Scenic Byways Grant, which will allow restoration of Clara Barton's sitting room and the Hubble bedroom to the time period dating 1898-1904. The estimated total cost is \$94,000, to be shared between the grant and other funding sources.

Adventure Theater's annual gala, held on October 30, was well attended.

Ms. Angelakis asked if the town was able to have a meeting with Montgomery County on the MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway. Mayor Beers explained that Glen Echo is still trying to coordinate a meeting. A meeting with Montgomery County officials and the NPS will be held at 11:30 on Friday, November 13; the Town was invited to send a representative. Councilmember Matney said he was unable to attend; Councilmember Long offered to attend on behalf of the Town.

There are numerous staff changes reported:

- Deputy Superintendent John James has been transferred to the National Capital Region;
- Adam Badowski will be the new Deputy Superintendent for the George Washington Memorial Parkway;
- Sam Swersky will move to Wolf Trap until the end of February where he will be acting Chief for Interpretation; GEP is looking for a temporary replacement until Mr. Swersky returns to GEP at the end of February 2010, Ms. Angelakis stated.

The trees surrounding the NPS drain at the intersection of Oberlin Avenue and Bowdoin Street have been removed by the NPS.

Councilmember Arber noted a deep and dangerous pothole where the GW Parkway merges into MacArthur Boulevard near Oberlin Avenue. Ms. Angelakis said she would

look at the area. C/T Polak noted that the road striping and crosswalk lines at that same intersection were recently re-painted.

Mayor Beers expressed appreciation, and thanked the NPS, for their help in facilitating the permits for the Town's Oxford Road reconstruction.

Councilmember Long inquired about plans for the miniature golf course area. Ms. Angelakis said the area will become an additional picnic area; spreading the fill dirt for seeding has been slow because of weather and lack of volunteers. Mayor Beers asked if this will be a private (rental) or open-to-the-public space; both are planned for the area, Ms. Angelakis replied. Councilmember Long asked about planting replacement trees in the Park this fall, and Councilmember Macy asked if trees will be planted along the fence near the miniature golf course area. The NPS plan is to plant native wildflowers; no trees will be planted this fall, but are expected to be planted in the spring.

The Park's "Winter's Eve" event will be December 12.

A Victorian greeting card workshop will be held at CBNHS November 29/30 and December 5/6. Ms. Angelakis thanked the Town for publicizing the workshop in *The Echo*.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 2009-22** to approve as amended the October 12, 2009, Town Council meeting minutes:

- Change page 2, paragraph 5: Councilmember Matney said ~~stop sign~~ crosswalk striping needs to be placed at all the MacArthur Boulevard cross streets, ~~below the bikepath at the multi-use trail.~~
- Add to page 3, paragraph 5: John Barrett asked that the Town write to the Montgomery County police to ask for greater police control of bicycling groups that block cars along MacArthur Boulevard, thus creating a traffic hazard. Support was expressed from Council members.
- Add to page 3, paragraph 6: Councilmember Matney notified Council that he is removing a large, shared tree in his yard.

#### **STREET REPAIR**

Mayor Beers reported that the street repair project walk-through with representatives from Ross Contracting, A. Morton Thomas and the Town was today. The Town is happy with the overall project. The large issues to be resolved are the speed bumps on Oxford Road and the water collection problems still present at the intersection of Cornell and Wellesley Avenues.

The day after paving was complete on Oberlin Avenue, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) had to dig across the street from the building at 6110 Oberlin Avenue to the main sewer line; the final plumbing for the renovation there was connected to the wrong sewer pipe, causing a back-up in the basement and a major WSSC repair

Mayor Beers said things have gone smoothly, noting that resident comments have been positive. Councilmember Long mentioned the archeological dig by the NPS on Oxford Road; although no artifact of historical interest was found, Councilmember Long found the process both interesting and worth doing. Councilmember Arber recognized Mayor Beers, Councilmember Long and C/T Polak for their diligence in monitoring the project.

Striping bid from Ross Contracting were over \$7000. Council agreed to seek other bids in the spring.

### **TOWN HALL USE**

A local Yoga instructor inquired about using the town hall for daily classes, with loosely scheduled hours. Councilmember Long suggested other locations to her, and explained the Town is no longer approving continued uses.

The film festival will be November 14.

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) chapter meeting will be held at the town hall on November 10.

Councilmember Long noted that she is pleased that Town resident use of the hall is increasing, particularly by new residents. She cited a thank you note from one resident.

Councilmember Matney reported that the annual Halloween party was a big success, with over 100 adults and children attending.

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

A report on the H1N1 virus in Montgomery County will be the main presentation at the November 10 meeting.

Councilmember Arber reported speaking with Luther Smith, MML liaison for public works issues with Montgomery County, on the problem of the Montgomery County police refusing to tow an abandoned automobile from Town. The Town was told that towing is a maintenance issue, to be handled by individual municipalities and not the County police. Luther Smith said municipalities should have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Montgomery County police to request towing.

### **TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE**

Councilmember Macy proposed installing a video and sound system. Councilmember Matney said he has calculated the location for the Town's video projector. Council members Macy and Matney will purchase the sound system for installation.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Councilmember Long mentioned a recent news article about population growth in Montgomery County, stating that the Town needs to be aware any plans for new developments and their potential effect on Glen Echo.

According to Councilmember Long, what is being contemplated is a change in the County's planning approach from the suburban to the urban concept. Because Montgomery County continues to experience intense population growth, planners are proposing land-use policies to accommodate multi-family dwelling units (urban) to replace policies oriented to single-family units (suburban). This change would be expected to greatly increase development density, and to allow developers to use land in ways not currently allowable as well as to bypass long-established rules for prudent land-use policies.

Respectfully submitted, Cathie Polak

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Deborah Beers, Mayor

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Date