

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 11, 2010

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

VISITORS: David Chitwood, Echo Reporter
 Willem Polak, Resident
 Matt Stiglitz, Resident

Mayor Beers opened the Council meeting at 8 p.m.

Willem Polak addressed the continuing problem of vehicles ignoring the stop sign at the corner of Oxford Road and University Avenue and suggested Council look into using a stop sign camera to ticket violators. Mayor Beers asked how the cost compares with hiring Montgomery County off-duty police to monitor the stop sign. Mr. Polak did not know the figures but offered to assist in finding the necessary data. He noted that Washington, D.C. has had almost 100% incidence of no repeat violators when cameras are installed. Council supports further investigation on availability and cost of installing a stop light camera at that location.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2010-17 to approve as amended the September 13, 2010, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion passed.

GLEN ECHO PARK (GEP) REPORT

Councilmember Long reported that GEP Site Manager Polly Angelakis is temporarily out of the office. Kevin Patti, Acting Site Manager, provided the Park report:

- Bloodmobile will be in the Clara Barton National Historic Site (CBNHS) parking lot on October 28, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
- Rosa Regan has been doing carousel restoration touch-up work this past week;
- Nature Conservancy has been removing invasive, non-native species from the Minnehaha Creek bed on Friday, October 8 and Monday, October 11.

Mayor Beers reported that she attended a fund raising event for Congressman Chris Van Hollen in the Bumper Car Pavilion. Councilmember Long also was present, but not as a contributor, and therefore did not have access to public officials in attendance, which included Senator Barbara Mikulski, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Governor Martin O'Malley, Councilmember Roger Berliner, State Delegate Susan Lee, and other elected officials. The event was well attended. Councilmember Long said she objects to public

officials using public land for fund raising; such events segregate contributors from non-contributors.

C & O CANAL

Mayor Beers and Councilmember Long, along with Burr Grey from Cabin John, and Matt Logan from the C & O Canal Trust, met with a Gazette newspaper reporter Peggy McEwan to bring attention to the deteriorating and neglected condition of the C&O Canal between Sycamore Island and Lock 8. The Gazette agreed to do a story on the declining condition of the Canal in that area.

Mayor Beers wrote to Congressman Van Hollen about the Canal last month; the response he received from the Department of Interior is attached. Mayor Beers will follow up with Karen McManus of Van Hollen's staff. Councilmember Long questioned Department of Interior response statement: "The 7-mile stretch, including Locks 6 and 8, underwent extensive vegetation control this past summer to improve the condition of the Canal."

Councilmember Macy noted that his son, Philip, asked Council to address the problem of no water in the Canal. Councilmember Macy questioned why debris is not cleared from the Canal, stating that debris attracts mosquitoes and creates a health hazard. The clay liner can be destroyed by weeds growing up through the floor of the Canal, if the Canal is dry.

Matt Stiglitz provided a contact in Senator Cardin's office; he is still researching the correct contact in Senator Mikulski's office.

Councilmember Long provided a copy of the 1971 legislation creating the C & O Canal National Historic Park, and a brief timeline of its development (attached). She explained that the Canal Trust is designated the official fund raising organization for the C & O Canal.

There was discussion about organizing a citizen volunteer day, and some discussion about keeping canal as a park vs. allowing it to revert to natural state.

Mayor Beers said she hopes to bring attention to the condition of the canal through the media and correspondence with public officials.

TOWN MAINTENANCE

New "No Parking" signs are finished; Case Handyman will begin installation later this month.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long reported that residents are the majority users in the next few months.

The annual Halloween Party will be held on October 31, 5:30 to 6:30.

The Holiday Party will be on December 11 from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

ORDINANCE REVIEW

Mayor Beers spoke with Norman Knopf's office; they will clarify the Town's Animal Control Ordinance with Montgomery County. Mollie Habermeier will begin rewriting the missing ordinances.

AUDIT

Dennis Alexander, CPA, provided the final draft of the FY2009-10 Audit. Council will submit questions and/or comments to Mayor Beers. She will then clarify the concerns with Mr. Alexander. C/T Polak noted that the Audit report is due to the State of Maryland on or before October 31.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.