

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO  
Town Council Meeting  
November 14, 2011

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor  
Nancy Long, Councilmember  
Eve Arber, Councilmember  
Mark McCaffrey, Councilmember  
Steve Matney, Councilmember  
Nicole Fraser, Town Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS: Carol Barton, Echo reporter  
Matt Stiglitz, Resident  
Polly Angelakis, NPS<sup>1</sup> Site Manager of GEP  
Rex Rhein, Resident  
Dia Costello, Resident

Mayor Beers called the meeting to order at 7:56 p.m.

**GLEN ECHO PARK**

Polly Angelakis, NPS Site Manager of GEP, stated that the NPS met with Montgomery County on November 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the latest draft of the EA for the portion of the proposed Shared Use Path going through NPS lands at GEP. There are still a number of items that need to be resolved before a public meeting, can be held to share information about the path. Mayor Beers asked, if there is a public meeting if people will have a chance to post comments on the plan. Ms. Angelakis said yes. Mayor Beers asked if enough money has been budgeted. Ms. Angelakis said that she didn't know but the EA needed to be completed since the proposed path goes through public land. Councilmember Long sought to verify that the EA was on the path's whole segment or only on the NPS portion. Ms. Angelakis said no, just on the section through GEP.

Ms. Angelakis gave thanks to Dave Leathers, from GEPPAC, for leading the Facility Management Class for Partnership and NPS staff.

Ms. Angelakis noted that NPS, GEPPAC staff, Resident Artists, and Eastern National regional manager met recently to discuss selling GEP artists' work in the Baltimore Civil War Museum. Councilmember Long asked if they sell other things for example note cards that had been sold at GEP prior to the advent of GEPPAC; these cards were in two sets one for GEP and CBNHS, the other for C&O Canal. Ms. Angelakis was not sure.

Ms. Angelakis reported that a planning meeting was recently held regarding the geothermal system to be installed in the Clara Barton House. The town will receive a two-week notice before digging starts. The goal is to have the four-day testing occur

---

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations used in this document include ARC (American Red Cross), EA (Environmental Assessment), GEBC (Glen Echo Baptist Church), GEFD (Glen Echo Fire Department), GEP (Glen Echo Park), GEPPAC (Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture), MML (Maryland Municipal League), NCC (National Community Church), NHP (National Historical Park), NHS (National Historic Site) and NPS (National Park Service).

during weekdays by the end of November. Equipment includes 4 large dump trucks. The entire parking lot lawn will need to be disturbed, she said. If funding is available, installation of the geothermal system would occur in Fall 2012.

A December Media Drive, to attract blood donors will be co-sponsored by GEPPAC, ARC and NPS. Prospective blood donors will need to make reservations. The event will be held in the Spanish Ballroom Annex on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 11 am – 6 pm. The ARC plans to have several well-known sports figures at the Media Drive, and will promote the drive at upcoming football games. The NPS will offer its Clara Barton Victorian Greeting Card workshop and other sit-down interpretive activities at the drive so donors can learn more about Clara Barton NHS and Glen Echo Park. Councilmember Long expressed concern about overflow parking resulting from people coming to the media drive to see the sports celebrities, depending on who the celebrities are. Ms. Angelakis said the requirement that blood donors make reservations might result in limited visitation, hence less traffic, but conceded she did not know what to expect. Councilmember Long said that she thought there would be those coming to see only the sports figures without interest in donating blood.

Ms. Angelakis reported that the NPS staff from GEP/CBNHS recently presented a Civil Rights Program for the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights' annual Human Rights Camp. This is the second year we have assisted with this camp. Ranger Zack Gardner was invited to assist with a recent NPS Servicewide (*sic*) Oral History training session. He shared insight and best practices about the NPS Oral History Program at GEP.

Ms. Angelakis reported two upcoming events:

- 1) Clara Barton NHS annual Victorian Greeting Card workshops will take place on November 26-27 and December 3-4. Workshop participants are photographed in period dress and make holiday cards using these photos. Reservations are suggested.
- 2) Glen Echo Park's Winter's Eve event will take place on Saturday, December 10, 6 - 9pm. Artist studios will be open and a variety of activities will be offered.

Mayor Beers noted that the bridge to the towpath over the Clara Barton Parkway and C&O Canal at the Sycamore Store has been restored.

Mayor Beers asked how much input the NPS has on GEP's site plan, particularly with respect to GEPPAC's plans. Ms. Angelakis answered that it would be similar to the process on the bike path (EA's, public meetings, etc.). Councilmember Long asked if there was a height limitation for buildings at GEP, as she understands there is. Ms. Angelakis said there is a limit to the amount of building coverage of parkland at GEP, which is only 40% and GEP is already very close to that percentage with existing structures. It is possible to have changes but any changes she said, would have to be run through NPS. Councilmember Long noted that it would be a shame to use the pool area or the golf course area for buildings; what the park needs is to retain its undeveloped land, not fill it with more structures.

Councilmember Long reported that the NPS has received \$3.1 million funds with the help of Congressman Van Hollen to repair the breach in the Old Angler's Inn area of the C&O Canal NHP.

### **BRIGGS' BENCH**

Resident Dia Costello asked the Town Council where the bench to commemorate Bill and Betty Briggs should be placed. Several locations around the Town Hall were discussed. Councilmembers Arber and Long said they would coordinate with Ms. Costello about where the bench should be placed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 2011-33** to approve the minutes with changes of October Council Meeting.

Changes include the insertion of two paragraphs:

- 1) Under Visitors: "Mayor Beers invited Carlotta Anderson to speak. Ms. Anderson stated that the post office was closed on the Friday (October 7, 2011) before the Columbus Day holiday (Monday October 10, 2011) and asked if this was a new USPS policy. Council and the Mayor both said that they were unsure if there was a change in USPS policy."
- 2) Under GEP: "Council and Mayor noted the retirement of Dottie Marshall, Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **POLICE CITATION REPORT**

Mayor Beers noted that the number of citations for traffic management at Oxford and University was very high. Clerk/Treasurer Fraser noted that Willem Polak installed a camera Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. The camera is only recording the pattern of behavior not recording license plates or drivers. Mayor Beers said that Mr. Polak hopes to change the state law so that the Town can keep the fines or at least recover the costs of monitoring. (N.B. – Town attorney Norman Knopf approved the installation of this device, saying it did not pose a problem for the Town.)

### **TOWN HALL USE**

Councilmember Long reported that the FSGW Family Dance group has requested use the Town Hall November through April on the third Sunday of the month (excluding December). She noted that the organization had been quite responsible the last two or three years, and she saw no objection to their request. The Council concurred. She reported also that an Irish Dance group requested use of the Town Hall once a week on a continuing basis. However, Councilmember Long informed the group that the Town is not taking continued use requests anymore. She offered alternative locations for the group to contact. Upcoming events include:

- December 3<sup>rd</sup> - a Bat Mitzvah for the friend of a town resident,
- December 10<sup>th</sup> – Film "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street"
- December 17<sup>th</sup> – Town Holiday Party

### **MARYLAND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES RESOLUTION**

Mayor Beers stated that she had been approached by Montgomery County to sign a resolution for Maryland Sustainable Communities. She said that there may be aid for sidewalks through this program, and could not see any negative consequences for such a resolution. Resident Matt Stiglitz asked if there was anything that might bind the Town. Mayor Beers said no, most of the resolution does not concern the town but it would be folly to miss the opportunity to apply for money to repair sidewalks or other amenities if the town did not approve the resolution. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

**Motion 2011-34** to pass the Maryland Sustainable Communities Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

### **CONTRIBUTION TO GEPPAC**

Mayor Beers proposed that the Town Council give an annual gift to GEPPAC. Councilmember Long moved that \$2000 be donated to GEPPAC, the motion was seconded by Councilmember McCaffrey.

**Motion 2011-35** to donate \$2000 to GEPPAC. Motion passed unanimously.

### **GEBC UPDATE**

Councilmember Long reported that she had contacted the NCC, and a staff member there stated that Pastor Batterson would be willing to meet with Town residents to discuss what plans they might have if NCC acquired the GEBC property at Vassar Circle. Resident Rex Rhein suggested that it would be best if the date could be announced in The Echo. Mayor Beers asked Councilmember Long if she could contact the NCC about meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Councilmember Long said that she would.

### **MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE**

Mayor Beers noted that all Councilmembers are invited to attend the MML annual dinner December 15<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Matney said that he attended the last MML meeting, and very little was applicable to the Town.

### **PEPCO**

Mayor Beers noted that the power went out several times over the last weekend. Councilmember Arber announced that she had seen many trucks bundling electrical lines and “heavying” lines up. Councilmember Long said that she spoke to one of the subcontractors performing the work. He said that the work being done now should have been done at least 20 years ago. Mayor Beers said that she had not heard back from PEPCO about the progress from the last meeting.

### **ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Clerk-Treasurer Fraser reported that there had been complaints from one of the businesses on Oberlin Avenue about inoperable vehicles parked on Oberlin. It appears that a new business in town, Exeter Financial Trust, has bought cars at auctions and

intends to repair them on the Town's streets or park them there until their ultimate disposition is determined. At present, a green Chevy Tahoe with a heavily dented front, has a sign indicating that it is undergoing periodic repairs in its present location on Oberlin Avenue. When contacted, Montgomery County Police would not tow it, saying it did not have jurisdiction in the Town of Glen Echo. Mayor Beers said that the Town and Montgomery County both have ordinances against inoperable vehicles on public streets, yet the county does not enforce its own laws. Mayor Beers said that she was in touch with Mr. Knopf, the town attorney, about an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the county for Vehicle Control. Mayor Beers instructed Clerk-Treasurer Fraser to draft a warning letter (with Mr. Knopf's approval) to Exeter Financial Trust, and also to contact the police to issue citations for any cars with out-of-date registration on Oberlin.

### **TOWN MAINTENANCE**

Clerk-Treasurer Fraser asked about repainting the curbs where the yellow paint has flaked away. Mayor Beers asked her to look into painting all areas designated as "no parking" yellow as well as to have the repainting done. (NB – the flaking of the yellow curb paint has occurred only on the new sidewalk sections.)

Resident Matt Stiglitz suggested changing the snow plowing parking on University Avenue to the west side (Potomac side) from the east (MacArthur side). The west side would be better to plow as it is often in the shade and does not melt as quickly as the east side which receives enough sunlight to hasten melting. Mayor Beers offered to check to see if an ordinance change were required. (If an ordinance, it would be a two month process; if not, it could be instantaneous).

### **GLEN ECHO FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Councilmember McCaffrey reported that the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the GEFD took place October 16<sup>th</sup>. Not many residents came to the event upstairs but more residents joined when the parade moved through the streets. The parade strolled through town with bagpipes and six Fire Department apparati went through town and ended at the Irish Inn. Councilmember Long noted that the two bagpipers, a boy and a girl both dressed in kilts, were from Rockville High School.

### **TOWN HALLOWEEN PARTY**

Clerk-Treasurer Fraser reported that the Town Halloween Party was well attended with over 40 children and 50 adults. Volunteers came for set-up and clean-up.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Nicole Fraser

---

Deborah M. Beers, Mayor

---

Date