

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

Council Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2009

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Eve Arber, Councilmember
Steve Matney, Councilmember
Dan Macy, Councilmember
Kathleen Kotcher, Acting Clerk

VISITORS: Polly Angelakis, Site Manager, Glen Echo Park (GEP)
Joci Khalifa, Echo Reporter

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Polly Angelakis plans to set up a meeting with Superintendent Dottie Marshall regarding Oxford Road. Mayor Beers wants the town attorney to be present.

Councilmember Matney expressed a number of concerns regarding Montgomery County's plans for the bike path along MacArthur Boulevard. Mayor Beers asked Councilmember Matney to set up a meeting with County planners.

Camps are in full swing at the Park. The playground will receive full funding and will be started after the events for the summer are over. Over \$60k has been added to complete the playground. There were two injuries early in the summer, none since then. A playground inspector was hired to look over the equipment. He said it was a lack of supervision, not the equipment, which was the cause of the accidents which resulted in one broken arm and one broken leg. The new Rescue Jungle playground equipment is intended for younger children.

Two women are working to form a Friends of Clara Barton organization. They will be recruiting at the lantern lighting festival September 26. Sneak Preview excerpts of the "America's Best Idea," a new documentary by Ken Burns will also be shown at the festival. The next day, excerpts will be shown again at the Glen Echo: Then and Wow! Festival.

Planning for the Labor Day Art Show is underway. The Park is also trying to arrange for a bloodmobile at the Clara Barton House for the lantern lighting festival.

The National Park Service is holding a meeting to determine the plan for bike path improvements as they affect the Park. Grade, accessibility, whether it should go through the park, compliance with ADA rules, and environmental impact studies/environmental assessments are all to be examined before a plan is proposed.

Councilmember Macy asked whether the NPS meetings on the bike path changes are open to the public. Councilmember Long is concerned there will be tree removal on the Palisades that provide a backdrop for Glen Echo Park across MacArthur Boulevard. She noted that settings for historic properties are nearly as important as the properties themselves.

Mayor Beers urged action and change on the bike path, as something needs to be done instead leaving it as it is. Steve Matney encouraged increased oversight and questioning of the plans. Mayor Beers reiterated her support for members of Council to attend the meeting and voice their opinions. She is advocating for positive thinking to spur action. Council members are of the opinion that bike path changes should improve the situation, not just provide changes for the sake of change. Councilmember Long commented that she is of the opinion that the bike path project manager is weak. Councilmember Macy feels skeptical about county oversight of the project. Mayor Beers cites the drain project as being an example of positive county oversight. Mayor Beers wants the project to move forward as it has been under development for 8-10 years. She suspects a lot of the tardiness has been as a response to the various community groups commenting.

Mayor Beers questioned who is responsible for permits for construction vehicles to drive through the park. Polly Angelakis will get back to her. Mayor Beers mentioned the orange parking permits for Glen Echo Park parking for residents to use during street repair. She still has to get authorization from the church for parking.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2009-17 to approve as amended the June 8, 2009, Town Council meeting minutes:

- Change page 1, paragraph 1, line 8: ~~Councilmember Matney~~ Site Manager Polly Angelakis;
- Add to page 2, paragraph 8, line 4: meeting in order to prevent the disclosure of proprietary pricing information

Minutes unanimously approved as amended.

Motion 2009-18 to approve as amended the June 22, 2009, Town Council meeting minutes:

- Change page 1, paragraph 3, bullet 8: the number references ~~are unbalanced~~ were unequal.

Minutes unanimously approved as amended.

Motion 2008-19 to approve as presented the July 13, 2009, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

STREET REPAIR PROJECT

A. Morton Thomas sent a variance from the original bid with overruns. Councilmember Long would like to take another look to assess the amount of sidewalk. Mayor Beers said the sidewalks will be repaired, either by this contractor or a different contractor in the

future. Councilmember Matney and Councilmember Macy believed the sidewalk number was going to go up.

Council noted that the Oberlin Ave sidewalk repairs are the responsibility of Richard Leggin, due to damage done by his construction project.

The patching costs were discussed; Mayor Beers feels the work is important to do now. However, she feels the asphalt curbing on Oberlin and Bowdoin may not be worth the cost overrun of \$28k—she is going to ask why the overrun is so high.

The speed bumps on Oxford Road are going to remain as they are. Plans for a more permanent speed bump have been scrapped.

Steve Matney wanted assurance that holes in the pavement near the bike path were going to be addressed.

Councilmember Macy agrees with Mayor Beers to go forward with everything but the asphalt curb. Councilmember Matney wants to know when the updated estimates are available.

Paving is scheduled to begin around August 17. They will be starting at Wellesley Circle and working to the other side of town. Mayor Beers is working to get permission for town residents to drive through town to get to the park without going onto MacArthur Boulevard.

Construction vehicles have received parking permits for the Park and for staging. Residents are allowed to park during the day, but not nights or weekends. The town is allowing A. Morton Thomas to use the right of way for asphalt storage during construction.

The Park has been very cooperative with Town needs concerning construction. Mayor Beers will ask the construction company to keep council abreast of proposed construction dates. Auburn Towing will be used to tow vehicles to a street not being worked on if necessary. Councilmember Arber is going to handle towing arrangements.

Councilmember Long questioned how much money will be left after construction. Mayor Beers estimates \$250-300k will be left in the budget.

Councilmember Macy suggested putting fliers on cars once the schedule is announced. Councilmember Matney wants to know the timing and movement through the town.

Mayor Beers is going to let the Irish Inn use the alternate entrance when Tulane Avenue is closed. She is thinking about offering the same to residents who may be gone for a long period of time.

TOWN HALL USE

The town wide Yard Sale, organized by Diana Hudson-Taylor, will be held on October 3, 9 – 1.

The film festival will return on September 12; repeating the second Saturday of each month.

MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (MML)

No Town representative was able to attend the MML annual meeting held in Ocean City, Maryland.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A LOCAL DEBT POLICY

MML plans to have a meeting concerning a local debt policy for small municipalities.

Mayor Beers would like to have the town attorney handle the issue. The town may not have to adopt one.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The Town attempted to have a car towed and were told the streets are private property and they will not tow a car unless they pay a fee and authorize the towing.

C&O Canal Trust w/ the Park Service is refurbishing some of the lock houses. They are furnishing them and expect to have them available for rental (overnight). They are going to start with four lock houses; the closest one to Town is Lockhouse 6. They will be furnished and interpreted to reflect different time periods in the canals history.

The initial start dates have been missed twice, and now the start date is unknown.

Councilmember Long is concerned about increased reports of vandalism along the Canal and GEP. Particularly since they will be furnished, and no staff or security personnel present when they are rented.

Preliminary plans to have small excursion boats, referred to as launches, on the canal are being reviewed. Five of these boats were ordered with stimulus money with all of the issues still pending.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Kotcher