

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
Town Council Meeting
August 8, 2011

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Eve Arber, Councilmember
Steve Matney, Councilmember
Mark McCaffrey, Councilmember (absent)
Cathie Polak, Acting Clerk

VISITORS: Sophie Keefer, Echo Reporter
Polly Angelakis, Site Manager, Glen Echo Park
Dia Costello, Resident
Carol Barton, Resident
Raya Bodnarchuk, Resident
Susan Grigsby, Resident
Matt Stiglitz, Resident
Diana Hudson-Taylor, Resident

Mayor Beers called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., noting that Councilmember McCaffrey was not in attendance. She then invited Glen Echo Park (GEP) Site Manager Polly Angelakis to report on the park.

GLEN ECHO PARK

Ms. Angelakis reported:

- National Park Service (NPS), American Red Cross, and Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) will co-sponsor a Blood Mobile at Clara Barton National Historic Site (NHS) on Sunday, Sept 4, as part of the Labor Day Art Show at Glen Echo Park and the "Art of Clara Barton" Open House at Clara Barton NHS.
- The NPS is partnering with GEPPAC to offer ranger led programs during the new Young Artists Camp. Camps are currently in progress.
- GEP staff are working with a contractor to revise the Glen Echo Park brochure and to design and install newer/updated waysides at Glen Echo Park.
- No new updates on the bike path.

MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway

There are no new developments on the MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway; a public meeting is being planned in September. Mayor Beers offered the Town Hall as the meeting location.

Oxford Road

Mayor Beers then relayed complaints from residents about stop sign violations on Oxford Road, especially during Glen Echo Park (GEP) camp drop-off and pick-up hours. Mayor

and Council are looking into traffic controlling devices, such as lights at crosswalk, in addition to the existing speed humps and the hiring of off-duty Montgomery County Police to monitor at specific times. Mayor Beers reiterated this continues to be a serious problem.

Playground Injuries

Councilmember Long inquired about injuries to children using the GEP playground equipment, noting that a town resident has expressed concern about accidents resulting in broken bones reportedly sustained at the GEP playground. Councilmember Long questioned if the injuries might be related to the current playground surface. Ms. Angelakis has heard nothing about such injuries. Council asked if GEPPAC keeps a record of playground incidents. Mayor Beers asked, and Ms. Angelakis agreed, that such reports be shared with Council. It was noted that the spinning equipment has temporarily been "cautioned off".

TOWN WIDE YARD SALE

Resident Diana Hudson-Taylor offered to organize a town wide yard sale, to be held on October 1. As in the past, Mayor Beers agreed that the Town will cover expenses, advertising and supplies, not covered by the \$5 entry fee. The Town Hall has been reserved for a rain location. Council thanked Ms. Hudson-Taylor for organizing this popular event.

REMEMBERING THE BRIGGS FAMILY

Residents Susan Grigsby and Dia Costello asked to use the Town Hall on September 9 for an informal gathering to remember long-time resident Betty Briggs, who recently passed away. Two chairs, similar in style to "Brockie's Bench," will be installed in Town. Several locations for the chairs were discussed; no decision was made on placement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2011-22 to approve as presented the May 23, 2011, Budget Hearing Minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion 2011-23 to approve as presented the May 23, 2011, Budget Meeting Minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion 2011-24 to approve as presented the July 11, 2011, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

POLICE CITATION REPORTS

No report was available for this Council meeting. Mayor Beers noted that she hoped the MC Police were writing many citations for traffic violations on Oxford Road.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 9, SECTION 9.1

Mayor Beers explained that Norman Knopf, the Town attorney, drafted this ordinance and, once approved, will then draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with

Montgomery County for specific issues, animal control and traffic enforcement, that have had enforcement problems in the past.

There was some general discussion about the ordinance and corrections to the text.

Motion 2011- 25 to strike word “be” page 1, 3rd paragraph, Town Code, in order to eliminate inconsistent wording. Motion approved unanimously.

Mayor Beers then called for motion to adopt Ordinance to Amend Article 9, Section 9.1

Motion 2011-26 to adopt Ordinance to Amend Article 9, Applicability of County Legislation, Section 9.1 Exemption from County Code, as corrected and adopted in Motion-25.

Motion adopted unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1. WSSC Street Damage: Councilmember Matney reported that WSSC drilled numerous holes in Wellesley Circle at Cornell Avenue intersection, in an attempt to repair a water pipe problem; patches were not done to the 36 holes. Concern was expressed that the unpatched holes will result in potholes once freezing weather arrives. Council requests C/T Fraser contact WSSC to have holes patched.

2. Town Hall Parking Lot Damage: Councilmember Long noted telephone messages from Mr. Gary Slayen requesting reimbursement for damage sustained to his vehicle in the Town Hall parking lot. (Note: see July 2011 minutes.)

3. Coffee House in Glen Echo Baptist Church (GEBC): Councilmember Long reported that the proposed coffee house hours would be 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., six days a week, according to a GEBC spokesman. She then suggested inviting the Minister of National Community Church (NCC) to a special Council meeting in the Town Hall to discuss the project.

Councilmember Matney suggested attending a meeting with the Minister of National Community Church (NCC) at the GEBC on August 14; Councilmember Long strongly urged a meeting with Council, to be held in the Town Hall.

Councilmembers Long and Arber reported that they are researching Town Council minutes for information on the land transfers from the Town, to the fire house, then to GEBC.

Resident Dia Costello relayed a conversation with Tom Meeks where Mr. Meeks said he had interest in a Town meeting but was not interested in attending a Town Council meeting on the possible transfer of GEBC building and land to the NCC.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cathie Polak