

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2007**

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

VISITORS: Kym Elder, NPS
Chris Sheldon, Resident
Sophie Keefer, Echo Reporter
David Carey, MML President
Jeffrey Slavin, MML Board of Directors
Dave Merchant, Coalition for Free Broadband
Frank Howard, Coalition for Free Broadband
Gloria Levin, Resident
John Barrett, Resident
Susan Grigsby, Resident
Forest Yang, Resident
Nicholas Lambert, Resident
Robin Kogelnik, Resident

PARK REPORT

Kym Elder summarized the attached report on Glen Echo Park and Clara Barton National Historic Site (NHS).

Maintenance Facility

The demolition of the old maintenance facility (pen) is complete; temporary fencing has been erected along the public area and the hillside near the site as a precaution. Plans for the new maintenance facility are almost complete. The plans will be shared at a public meeting once federal funding is available.

Chautauqua Tower

Work is being done on the Chautauqua tower; HVAC duct work is almost complete, the windows are to be refinished and/or replaced, repointing and other masonry work to be completed in Phase V of the rehabilitation plans. The tower is accessible through the yellow barn. Events are being planned for the tower.

Adventure Theater has been given the go-ahead to demolish the old theater space in the east wing of the Spanish Ballroom, and begin construction on the interior of Adventure Theater's original space in the south arcade.

Ms. Elder thanked the Town for its continued support at family day, the Clara Barton NHS open house and the Yellow Barn Art Studio's ribbon cutting.

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) is hosting their annual Gala on May 19. The Washington Folk Festival is scheduled for June 2 and 3.

Councilmember Long inquired about the status of the bath house building near the playground in the Crystal Pool area. Ms. Elder said the building is literally hanging over the parkway and slated for removal.

Councilmember Macy asked about the proposed building Discovery Creek (DC) wanted to build in the Crystal Pool area. Kym Elder reported that all DC development plans are on hold; there is no additional information available at this time. Living Classrooms, from Baltimore, will assume the DC programs.

Councilmember Arber asked if Sean McCabe has heard from Montgomery County on the MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway plans. Ms. Elder did not know, but will check with Mr. McCabe.

C/T Polak mentioned concerns about placement of the traffic barricades during large GEP events; placement made it difficult, and sometimes dangerous, to get in and out of Town. Council agreed with Councilmember Long's suggestion to place the barricades closer to Town streets. Ms. Elder will take the request to GEP.

MML PRESENTATION

David Carey, Maryland Municipal League (MML) President and Jeff Slavin, MML Board of Directors, presented MML Hall of Fame certificates to Councilmember Nancy Long and Mayor Debbie Beers for their many years of public service to the Town of Glen Echo. Mayor Beers and Councilmember Long thanked MML for the recognition, noting the Town is trying to be more involved in the MML.

COALITION FOR FREE BROADBAND

Dave Merchant explained his group's mission to bring free broadband to the entire United States. He circulated the attached information and asked for the Town's support. Mayor Beers asked what the Town would need to do. Mr. Merchant responded that he is asking for individuals to write letters and the Town to adopt a proclamation. Some comments and questions that followed:

- Councilmember Long asked about the public private concept. Councilmember Matney inquired about the funding source, which will be advertising.
- Mayor Beers asked how the system would work, would they need access to the Town's utility poles or need to place towers in Town. The Coalition estimates it will take about 10 years to bring free wireless to the entire U.S. Towers would need to be placed near or within the Town's boundaries; repeater towers will need to be every three miles..
- Councilmember Matney asked about how the system works, must a user use their portal with an adapter. He had additional questions about security, controls and lock out,

interference with existing systems, who owns MTZ and how would wireless be made available.

- Mayor Beers asked what other municipalities have signed on and requested a sample letter and with directions for whom should receive the letter. The Coalition will send the requested information, noting that the letters need to be sent by the end of May, when the FCC docket closes.
- Gloria Levin asked if the Coalition for Free Broadband is publicly traded. Their representatives responded yes.
- Councilmember Long inquired if they have contacted Montgomery County. Mr. Merchant said that a presentation has been made to Montgomery County Council and they have agreed to support the Coalition.
- Mayor Beers noted that Glen Echo Park is in the developmental stage of plans to have free broadband at the Park.

6105 YALE AVENUE

Chris Sheldon, new owner of 6105 Yale Avenue, introduced himself to Council and gave a short family history. He then showed Council and visitors the plans for renovating the home. Mr. Sheldon explained that the interior stairway needs to be brought up to Montgomery County Code, and they adding a wing to the west side of the house to incorporate the existing single story room on that side.

Montgomery and Town permits have been issued. Mr. Sheldon noted that he liked the Town's new permit process, which required him to notify adjoining property owners of the renovation plans; it helped him to meet his neighbors.

Gloria Levin mentioned concerns about contractors' respect for Town streets and neighbors.

ELECTION REPORT

Susan Grigsby reviewed results from the May 7, 2007, election where incumbent Nancy Long was reelected and there was a tie between Robin Kogelnik and incumbent Dan Macy. The runoff election will be held on Monday, May 21, 2007, from 6 to 9 p.m.

SWEARING-IN

Nancy Long was sworn in by Mayor Beers and welcomed, once again, to the Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Beers asked for changes to the proposed minutes.

Motion 2007-08 to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2007, Town Council meeting, as amended:

- Page 2, paragraph 9: One is from A. Morton Thomas, which came in at \$4,000, ~~which would include storm water management.~~
- Page 3, paragraph 10: landscape ~~designers~~ architects to prepare a plan first.
- Page 4, paragraph 3: Mayor Beers reported the Montgomery County off-duty police hired by the Town have

Motion passed as amended.

GEP REPORT

Councilmember Long said that the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) meeting reported that they have had financial success in renting space for special events (i.e., weddings, large parties, etc.) and now wants to pursue more marketing in that direction. Ms. Long noted that she is concerned that GEP is leaning toward commercialization. The NPS sees that the GEPPAC Agreement needs some revision, specifically in the area of facility rental. The Town needs to make their voice heard. Councilmember Kogelnik agreed that the potential drinking during these events magnifies concern about the traffic on Oxford Road.

BUDGET HEARING

The FY 2007-2008 budget hearing is set for Tuesday, May 29, at 7:30. A Special Council meeting to adopt the FY2007-2008 budget will follow the hearing.

STREET REPAIR PROJECT

Councilmember Matney presented a second engineering street survey bid from EBA Engineering for \$13,000 which includes a geo-technical survey (looking at pavement layers, soil core samples and a pavement distress survey). A. Morton Thomas' bid, for \$4,000, includes a walk-through and update of their previous survey.

Mayor Beers questioned if the Town needs such in depth information, noting that either way patching needs to be done right away on several streets. One resident present expressed concern about opening a Pandora's Box with the EBA information noting that the Town needs to be prepared to do the work proposed by such an in-depth survey.

Councilmember Matney said if the Town hopes to pursue other funding a more thorough bid may be required. Gloria Levin, who was involved with the last street project, supports A. Morton Thomas' plan, which already has priorities and phases for construction. There was discussion about the condition of Oberlin, Bowdoin and Tulane Avenues; the National Park Service/GEP has agreed to do the repair work to the streets once construction at the Park is complete.

Councilmember Arber asked that curbs and water management be included in the surveys. Requests were made for alternative traffic calming suggestions for Oxford Road. Councilmember Matney will get more information to provide a better comparison of the different surveys; traffic calming suggestions from EBA and geo-technical information from A. Morton Thomas.

LANDSCAPING REPORT

Councilmember Long did not yet have proposals for the Town parks.

TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE

There was discussion of three Town Hall sign proposals.

Motion 2007-09 to accept the Sterico Sign bid for a new Town Hall Sign.

Councilmember Arber offered to look for additional information for low maintenance materials available for a new sign.

The motion was withdrawn.

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TOWNHALL USE

The movie "Babel" will be shown at the film festival on Saturday, June 9.

The attached calendar was reviewed by Councilmember Long

DUMPSTER ORDINANCE

This ordinance has been tabled until further notice.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Long noted that there will be 500 bicyclers on the C & O Canal June 23-30.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.