

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 11, 2007

Attendance: Debbie Beers, Mayor
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Eve Arber, Councilmember
Steve Matney, Councilmember
Robin Kogelnik, Councilmember
Cathie Polak, Clerk

Visitors: Kym Elder, NPS
Richard Leggin, 6110 Oberlin Avenue
Anne Martin, 6110 Oberlin Avenue
Eleanor Balaban, Resident
Neil Lambert, Resident
Kathleen Kotcher, Echo Reporter

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8:00.

6110 OBERLIN AVENUE

Mr. Leggin explained that he is making a final presentation to Council and Glen Echo residents, a requirement as part of the application process with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) for a site plan review to re-zone his property at 6110 Oberlin Avenue from residential (R-60) to commercial transition (CT) zone. According to Mr. Leggin, MNCPPC will look very closely at zoning, parking, landscaping, green space, tree preservation, and the exterior elevations to insure compatibility with existing surrounding buildings prior to approving the site plan. Mr. Leggin noted that the site plan provides 30% green space (the required is 5%) and a large Sycamore tree on the corner of his property will be preserved. A modest addition will be added to the rear of house, increasing the size from 1700 square feet to 2400 square feet. There are plans for an apartment upstairs, retaining the house as a multi-use building. Mayor Beers asked how this process differs from previous rezoning hearings; Mr. Leggin explained that he is bound to the specifics in the site plan. He then introduced Ann Martin, an attorney, who has assisted him with this final process. Mayor Beers inquired if there were any differences in this plan and the previous presentation Mr. Leggin had made to Council. Mr. Leggin said there are no differences. Mayor Beers asked what the term "binding" means. Ms. Martin explained that the owner is required to appear before the MNCPPC for approval to make any changes to the original site plan. Mr. Leggin would have to go through the public process again to change the use of this building. Councilmember Long asked about on-site parking. Mr. Leggin said there are to be six parking spaces. He then summarized the landscape plan, noting again that he is required to follow the plan exactly.

Resident Eleanor Balaban asked about the proposed apartment. Mr. Leggin did not comment on who might be living in the apartment but explained that he thinks having an

apartment gives the building flexibility. His goal is to have the building be a “house,” which he sees as part of its charm. Mr. Leggin noted that his company has already been a Glen Echo neighbor for 12 years.

Mayor Beers noted that last time Mr. Leggin made a presentation to Council, it voted to take no position, and asked Mr. Leggin and Ms. Martin what they needed from Council. Ms. Martin then requested a copy of the attendance list to confirm who attended the public meeting; all present signed the attendance sheet and a copy was given to Mr. Leggin.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

When invited to report on Glen Echo Park, Kym Elder first introduced herself to new council member, Robin Kogelnik. Ms. Elder then explained that she has a very large file on the MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway to give to Council. Although only covering 30% of the bikeway project, it is too large to send via email.

Ms. Elder then asked about the new location of the barricades. Councilmember Long explained that she moved the barricades closer to Town so as not to block the bike path and to provide for safer exit from Town. The barricades need to be on the Town side of the bike path, slightly slanted for safe entrance and exit of residents' vehicles.

This Saturday, June 16, is the “Then & Wow” program. NPS is expecting a large crowd. When Mayor Beers asked, Ms. Elder said attendance was down for the Folk Festival, possibly because of rain on Sunday. Family Day attendance increased again this year. Progress for Adventure Theater build-out appears to be ahead of schedule. Ms. Elder anticipates they will meet the mid-September completion date to move into the new space.

There is a NPS budget for FY 2008. Ms. Elder hopes that GEP will fare well. Funding is approved for the new maintenance facility.

Councilmember Long asked about the southern end of the Arcade, beyond the Adventure Theater space. GEPPAC is discussing this area with the NPS. When asked about the Living Classrooms take over transition of Discovery Creek, Ms. Elder said the NPS feels it has been seamless; there may be some changes evident in the summer camps. Mayor Beers asked about the Oxford Road ownership decision. Councilmember Kogelnik asked for background summary. Ms. Elder explained that the case has gone to the NPS Solicitor's office for decision; the Town opinion is that it owns Oxford Road. Mayor Beers offered to have Norman Knopf call the Solicitor's office again. Ms. Elder agreed that a follow up might bring a response. Councilmember Matney summarized that the NPS has given a verbal answer, but nothing in writing.

Mayor Beers asked about the renegotiation of the NPS agreement with GEPPAC. Ms. Elder explained that it is not moving along at all. The new Superintendent has approached renegotiation discussion with Montgomery County, which also has questions

about the current agreement. Ms. Elder indicated that she thought the Superintendent will address the issue after the 4th of July celebrations.

Councilmember Long then asked about use of the Candy Corner building. The NPS plans to use it as an interpretive center, specifically on the civil rights issue. Ms. Long asked if the GEPPAC interferes with the NPS interpretations plans. Initially there were questions, but not any longer.

The Clara Barton NHS plans an art show in the fall, displaying paintings by Clara Barton. The Barton paintings will be on loan from a relative in California. The exhibit will also display artwork related to Clara Barton by local artists.

MACARTHUR BOULEVARD CROSSWALK

Nick Lambert asked if there is going to be a report on the MacArthur Boulevard crosswalk, noting that even though he is on crutches he has had difficulty crossing the street due to reckless behavior by drivers. Councilmember Arber mentioned that Montgomery County is studying the possibility of putting in a traffic camera near the crosswalk to monitor the traffic. Councilmember Kogelnik asked for an overview of the problem. Council reviewed the history and explained that the Town has requested a pedestrian stop light at Princeton Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard for many years. There was discussion about traffic calming methods the Town could take. Councilmember Kogelnik said there should be a plan B, possibly placing orange cones near the crosswalk. Jurisdiction of MacArthur Boulevard belongs to Montgomery County; the town could be liable if there is an accident. (MacArthur Boulevard is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which ceded maintenance and traffic control to Montgomery County.)

STREET CLOSINGS

Councilmember Arber asked Council to revisit the issue of residents closing streets for block parties. There was discussion about policy and potential problems. Councilmember Matney was concerned about potential liability. Councilmember Arber was concerned about blocking emergency vehicles.

Councilmember Kogelnik spoke in support of the block party concept. She said it fosters community spirit. Since Glen Echo has jurisdiction over its streets, there should be a provision for residents to get approval to close a street. Mayor Beers said she will review Article 19 of the Town ordinances. The issue was tabled until the July 9, 2007, Council meeting.

STREET REPAIR PROJECT

Councilmember Matney reported that EBA Company would add traffic calming to its survey. He has not heard from A. Morton Thomas about geo-technical surveying.

TOWN PARKS LANDSCAPING PROJECT

Councilmember Long reported that she has two appointments next week to discuss landscaping designs in the Town parks.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long reviewed the attached Town Hall use calendar. She noted a request from the Junior League Gardeners to hold .

Melinda Henneberger, will discuss and sign copies of her new book, "If They Only Listened to Us--What Women Voters Want Politicians to Hear" on June 24, from 3-5 p.m. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

MML REPORT

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) June meetings were at the annual Convention in Ocean City. Glen Echo did not have a representative present.

Councilmember Arber reviewed information on potential MML landscaping grants. Mayor Beers noted that the Town used all its open space monies to purchase the trolley right of way; this is not open space money. The application deadline is July 16. Another potential grant could be from Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Councilmember Long asked about amounts: specifically for counties and municipalities. The Town needs a solid landscape plan before submitting any application.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2007-12 to approve as presented the minutes from the May 29, 2007, FY 2007-2007 Budget Hearing and Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN BULLETIN BOARD

Resident Carlotta Anderson asked Council to discuss the information being posted on the Town's bulletin board near the post office entrance. Ms. Anderson is opposed to Glen Echo Park information being placed there. Councilmember Matney asked if the bulletin board is only for the Echo. Councilmember Long explained that she thought the bulletin board was for general interest to the Town and post office visitors; she would like special events in the Town hall put on the bulletin board. Councilmember Matney mentioned a community bulletin board in nearby Brookmont where residents gather to read posted notices. Council was receptive to adding a bulletin board to the landscaping plan for one of the town parks. The post office bulletin board should remain for The Echo and Town events open to the public.

WEB SITE

Mayor Beers will provide the ordinances available for upload to the web site. The ordinances should be in numerical order, and searchable.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1. Town Hall Sign: Councilmember Arber circulated the final design (attached) for the new Town Hall sign.

2. Gilbert Gude: Councilmember Long noted the death of Gilbert Gude, who was the Congressman for Glen Echo for ten (10) years. Mr. Gude was also responsible for the C & O Canal National Historical Park legislation. Glen Echo Park is a public park today because of Mr. Gude's efforts; he facilitated the land transfer from private to public ownership. Mr. Gude also helped raise funds to purchase the carrousel. According to Councilmember Long, everything Glen Echo cherishes is due largely to the dedication and efficient leadership of Gilbert Gude. The Gude family had requested that those wishing to express condolences may contribute to the C & O Canal Association. Councilmember Arber suggested a donation in his honor to the C & O Canal Association. **Motion 2007-13** to contribute \$500 to the C & O Canal Association in honor of Congressman Gilbert Gude. The motion passed with Councilmember Long recusing herself because she is a member of the Board of Directors of the C & O Canal Association.

3. Tree removal: Councilmember Kogelnik requested a waiver on the 60 day notice to remove two (2) large trees from 6100 Princeton Avenue; the trees are destroying their home's foundation. Council waived the 60 day notice.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.