

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 12, 2007**

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

Visitors: Kym Elder, NPS, Glen Echo Park Site Manager  
Jerry Bodlander, Echo Reporter  
Phyllis Daen, Resident  
Jim Beaubien, Resident  
Don & Lynn Dworsky, Resident

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m., noting that Councilmember Matney was absent.

**GLEN ECHO PARK (GEP) REPORT**

Site Manager Kym Elder reported that Phase V of the rehabilitation effort is under review with the Montgomery County contracting office. Phase V includes the Crystal Pool façade, the first aid building, the Caretaker's Cottage and adjacent retaining wall. The bathhouse will be demolished because it is in danger of falling onto the Clara Barton Parkway due to its decaying condition.

Renovation of GEP is 80% complete; the NPS is pleased with the programs being offered as well as Park visitation. Adventure Theater reopened this past weekend. There is a new textile artist located on the second floor of the Yellow Barn.

The Minnehaha Creek bridge stabilization project is 90% complete; the final walk-thru is scheduled for Thursday, November 15.

Ms. Elder had no information to report on the maintenance facility, the MacArthur Boulevard Bike Path improvements, or the GEP entrance changes at Oxford Road.

Mayor Beers asked if the NPS is going ahead on the acquisition of the street car right of way. According to Ms. Elder, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WAMATA) and NPS exchanged land, which included acquisition of the right of way. Councilmember Long asked how much of the right-of-way was acquired: from Oxford Road to the entrance to Clara Barton Parkway near Oberlin Avenue. NPS has met with Christie Hughes, owner of the Irish Inn, on the Inn's use of the right of way; the Inn will continue to use the right-of-way for customer parking. NPS is considering offering additional parking to the Irish Inn. Councilmember Long asked where; Ms. Elder replied that several different areas are under consideration (near the dumpster or the palisades field contiguous to Town property).

The west side of the external walls of the Clara Barton National Historic Site (CBNHS) is being painted. The CBNHS will be open for limited weekend hours during painting, which should be completed by early December.

Victorian holiday card workshops will be held by reservation—Nov. 24-25, and Dec. 1-2.

### **PARKING WAIVER REQUEST**

Phyllis Daen asked Council to support a request for a parking waiver application for her home office. She then gave an overview of the home office application process, which requires her to provide four off street parking spaces. Mrs. Daen said that, although there is space in her yard for two parking spaces on her property, she would have to give up her new garden. Further comments:

- Don Dworsky asked Council not to support the request because of the additional cars parked on Columbia Avenue, in front of his home, with occupants waiting in the car.
- Mr. Dworsky stated that he is uncomfortable having occupants waiting in cars near his home; he had an unpleasant discussion with an individual waiting in an automobile near his home.
- Councilmember Arber inquired if there is adequate parking on the street; there is parking available on Columbia, Harvard and University Avenues.
- Mayor Beers asked if Mrs. Daen's clients are parking on Columbia Avenue. Mrs. Daen has asked her clients not to park on Columbia Avenue after complaints by nearby residents. According to Mr. Dworsky, the parking has improved on Columbia Avenue.
- C/T Polak noted that Glen Echo's streets are public streets, open to the public for parking.
- Lynn Dworsky has seen an increase in parked cars, at times making driving around the block difficult.
- Mrs. Daen has purchased office space in Westbard; she plans to see clients in her home only during inclement weather or at night once she can move to the office in January.
- Councilmember Kogelnik feels that it is reasonable to ask for the waiver since clients will only come to the home office on an irregular basis.
- Mayor Beers proposed waiting until Mrs. Daen moves into offices to see if the parking issues improve.
- Councilmember Long asked when the problem is most evident. Mr. Dworsky said in the morning and afternoon, Lynn Dworsky said the problem is in the evening; Jim Beaubien has problems driving around the block during the day.
- Mayor Beers then suggested Mrs. Daen put in some off street parking to help with the issue.
- Councilmember Long asked Mrs. Daen if the permanent WSSC easement on her property would affect construction of a driveway. Mrs. Daen replied that the easement already has a kind of subsurface material on it allowing WSSC vehicle access to the storm drain when necessary.
- Mayor Beers asked if Montgomery County has an annual review of parking waivers; it is a one-time application.

- Mayor Beers is concerned that supporting the waiver may set a precedent for other such waivers which could present a problem. Councilmember Long agreed.

Mayor Beers said Council can not support Mrs. Daen's request for a parking waiver at this time. The issue can be revisited once Mrs. Daen adds off street parking to her home and moves the office.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Long asked Councilmember Kogelnik to designate which association she spoke with (see page 4, Princeton Avenue/MacArthur Blvd. crosswalk and traffic): the Bannockburn Citizens Association or the Bannockburn Civic Association.

Councilmember Kogelnik will confirm.

**Motion 2007-23** to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2007, Town Council meeting as presented, with the Bannockburn association confirmed. Motion passed unanimously.

### **STREET REPAIR PROJECT REPORT**

Councilmember Kogelnik gave an overview of comparison between A. Morton Thomas (AMT) and EBA Engineering (EBA), noting that the comparison indicates that Council should choose AMT. Discussion highlights were:

- Councilmember Arber is concerned that four core samples may not be enough and inquired what additional core samples would cost.
- Councilmember Long agrees that, given the topography of the Town, it is important to look at more than four samples.
- Mayor Beers then asked Councilmember Kogelnik to get a price for additional core samples from AMT.
- Mayor Beers told Council that the firm chosen must handle the entire bid process; this is a huge piece of the decision making.
- AMT would complete the study in about a month.
- Mayor Beers would like an interim meeting for Council to vote on the final selection. Councilmember Kogelnik said she hopes the Town could move forward with a plan by January council.

### **LANDSCAPE REPORT**

Councilmember Long and Mayor Beers met with Rob Petersen of Shorb Landscaping on November 8. Mr. Petersen said Shorb can not lower the bid without making changes.

There will be an additional \$50 for a boulder for a plaque commemorating Shirley Strong's donation. Councilmember Long reported that fire hydrants can be set up for Town use. Councilmember Long suggests contracting with the Shorb company to maintain the two parks after landscaping to protect the Town's investment.

Councilmember Arber offered to work with Councilmember Long to reduce the number of plants and trees to keep the parks from becoming quickly overgrown. C/T Polak inquired about the start date; the hardscaping can be done this winter and plantings in the spring.

### **TOWNHALL USE**

Councilmember Long reviewed the upcoming town hall use, noting:

- FSGW concert on 11/15;
- Town Holiday Breakfast on 12/15; and
- Remembrance gathering for former Glen Echo resident, Joan Foster, on 1/20/08.

Mayor Beers noted that Debbie Lange plans to use a small moon bounce inside the Town Hall during their November use.

### **MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (MML)**

Councilmember Arber reported that the monthly meeting was held in the Kensington Town Hall.

Ashley Valis was the speaker from the Maryland State Intergovernmental Affairs Office. The annual legislative dinner will be on November 29. Council all indicated that they would attend the dinner.

MML is still looking for a representative to sit on the Montgomery County Pedestrian Safety Task Force.

### **RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE**

Councilmember Kogelnik introduced a request by residents Betsy Carpenter and James Gibney to leave the leaves in the right-of-way for environmental reasons. Council agreed that most residents like the right-of-way cleared; it would be difficult to clear dead trees, trash and poison ivy from the right of way, but not the leaves.

### **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

1. MacArthur Boulevard Ownership: Councilmember Long mentioned an article in Bethesda Gazette stating that MacArthur Boulevard was a state road. Councilmember Long reported she was concerned and called the Army Corps of Engineers to clarify ownership. Their response was that any modifications to MacArthur Boulevard must be coordinated with the Washington Aqueduct branch of the Corps, which owns MacArthur Boulevard. The day-to-day operation is governed by Maryland state and county laws. Their letter is attached to these minutes.

2. Charter Amendment/Voter Qualification: Mayor Beers gave Council a draft copy of a charter amendment change to voter qualifications, stating that she wanted Council to be prepared to review the proposed draft at the December 10 Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:20.